

# Exit Screening

Ebola Guidance Package

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World Health  
Organization

## Exit screening at Points of Entry of States with Ebola Transmission

### Rationale for exit screening at Point of Entry in States with Ebola transmission

- Following IHR recommendations (2005), **States with Ebola transmission should conduct exit screening of all persons at international airports, seaports and major land crossings** (point of entry – POE), for unexplained febrile illness consistent with potential Ebola infection.
- The purpose of exit screening is **to identify ill persons with possible infection or exposure to Ebola virus disease (EVD)** and to prevent them from further travel, especially internationally. **Any person with an illness consistent with EVD should not be allowed to travel** unless the travel is part of an appropriate medical evacuation.
- **Screening exit control should be conducted before check-in counters**, such as at the first security check to entry terminals for airport for instance.
- The exit screening should consist of, at a minimum, **a questionnaire, a temperature measurement and, if there is a fever**, an assessment of the risk that the fever is caused by EVD.
- Steps below should be implemented by **trained personnel with adequate use of PPE**, for medical assessment, and identification of contacts.

### Steps for exit screening

#### **1. Primary screening to identify travelers for exposure risk and signs of illness with EVD**

- All travelers requested to fill in the travel health questionnaire to detect exposure risk and symptoms
- Trained staff working at POE to observe travelers and detect signs and symptoms of disease
- Temperature screening of all travelers

*If a traveler has fever or an exposure risk, he/she should go through secondary screening.*

*If a traveler has neither fever or exposure risk, he/she may proceed with travel.*

#### **2. Secondary screening to further assess the risk of exposure / infection of travelers by trained public health officers**

- People identified with suspected EVD infection/exposure are evaluated for signs and symptoms by trained public health staff
- Public health staff will conduct a public health interview (more in-depth questionnaire) and repeat temperature screening

*Based on the secondary screening public health officer may either allow the travel or refer the traveler to public health or medical authorities.*

#### **3. Referral to public health or medical authorities**

- Organize transport to medical facility and notify public health authorities
- Place the traveler referred on travel restriction list

Exit screening process should be accompanied **by an extensive public communications campaign** to educate the travelling population and travel industry of the intent by the government to screen travelers.