



EBOLA KEY FACTS

FAO Medical Service continues to monitor the spread of the Ebola virus closely and is receiving regular updates and guidance from expert centers such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Although the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Western Africa continues (currently affecting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone most importantly) the risk of infection is very low if one has not been in close contact with a sick individual. For this reason, neither the WHO nor the Italian authorities are recommending any travel restrictions for individuals with no history of exposure travelling from this region. The risk of acquiring the disease during transit is considered to be very low.

Some key facts:

What is Ebola virus disease?

Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans. The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.

How do people become infected with EVD?

The majority of cases in humans have occurred as a result of human-to-human transmission. Infection occurs by direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people, and with surfaces and materials (e.g. bedding, clothing) contaminated with these fluids. This is a major concern especially during health-care procedures and traditional burial practices.

What are the symptoms of EVD?

Sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache, and a sore throat are typical signs and symptoms. This can be followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and in some cases, both internal and external bleeding. People become contagious only after they start to show symptoms.

I have recently travelled in an Ebola-affected country. Should I be concerned?

If you have recently travelled in an Ebola-affected country, the chances of your becoming infected with EVD are low, unless you have a) had contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have EVD; or b) you have attended the funeral of someone who was suspected or confirmed to have EVD. If either or both of these are the case, you are considered to be at risk and should be monitored for 21 days by your national public health authority.



What if I start to show symptoms of EVD while I am at the conference?

If you begin to have any of the symptoms described above and you have travelled in an Ebola-affected country, and/or have had contact with someone suspected or confirmed to have EVD or who was suspected or confirmed to have died from EVD, go immediately to the FAO Medical Service located in Building B 1st floor if you are on FAO premises or call 06 57053400 if outside FAO and follow their instructions.

In an effort to prevent spread of this disease and to detect and treat promptly anyone who might be developing Ebola, delegates are kindly requested to consider a few recommendations:

- While it is not expected that individuals experiencing symptoms consistent with the Ebola virus (such as sudden fever, chills, or muscle rash) would travel to Rome for the ICN2, delegates from countries with Ebola transmission should be aware that they may be screened en route for symptoms of Ebola, or for history of contact with someone who has Ebola. Many travelers are being asked to complete a brief written questionnaire and, based on their responses, they may be asked by authorities to monitor their health and to check for fever regularly if they are deemed to be at risk of Ebola. They may also be asked to have a medical evaluation if they are coming from a country with Ebola transmission and are ill or have a fever.
- People who have been in an Ebola affected country in the past 3 weeks are requested to check their temperature twice daily for 21 days and report to the FAO Medical Service in case of the development of any of the symptoms.
- Anyone who thinks they have been exposed to the Ebola virus is requested not to attend the conference.

FAO Medical Service, through an agreement with the Italian National Institute for Infectious Diseases (INMI) and the Spallanzani Hospital in Rome, will be able to obtain prompt medical attention and treatment for anyone suspected of having or developing Ebola.

Delegates who would like additional information on the symptoms of the Ebola disease and advice on precautionary measures are advised to review the websites of the [WHO](#) and [CDC](#).