

In case of the reply the number and the date of this letter should be quoted.

Ghana Health Service  
Private Mail Bag  
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15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH SERVICE  
GHANA HEALTH SERVICE

ALL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS  
TEACHING HOSPITALS

### **EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE ALERT FOLLOWING CONFIRMED CASES IN GUINEA**

This is to inform all stakeholders in the health sector of the confirmation of seven (7) cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Guinea on 14th February 2021. Three of the cases have died from the disease.

EVD is a severe, often fatal illness in humans caused by the Ebola virus. The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission. It can be transmitted through human contact with body fluids of a person infected with the virus. These body fluids include blood, saliva, vomitus, urine, sweat and semen. Major symptoms of the disease include fever, headache, fatigue, muscle pain, unexplained bleeding tendencies from nose, gums, vagina, skin or eyes, as well as vomiting and diarrhoea.

All regions, districts and health facilities are to initiate preparedness and response plans for EVD.

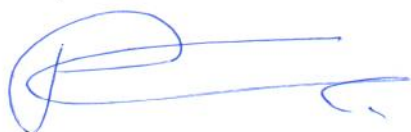
All Regional and District Public Health Emergency Management Committees should include EVD on their agenda. Additionally, regions, districts, health facilities, port health units at all border posts particularly along the Western border and all landing beaches are to heighten surveillance for EVD using the standard case definition (attached). They are also requested to remind all Ghanaians and residents in Ghana on the need to protect themselves from the disease. These preventive measure include:

- Avoid contact with blood and body fluids (such as urine, saliva, sweat, faeces, vomit, breast milk and semen) of people who show any of the symptoms above.
- Practice hand hygiene: frequent hand washing with soap and under running water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Do not handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids.

- Avoid contact with dead bodies, including participating in funeral or burial rituals of suspected or confirmed Ebola cases.
- Avoid contact with animals (such as bats or monkeys) or with raw or undercooked meat.
- Do not handle bush meat (wild animals hunted for food).
- Seek medical care immediately (nearest health facility) if one develops fever (body temperature 38°C or above) or other symptoms such as severe headache, fatigue (feeling very tired), muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, or unexplained bleeding or bruising.

We are to take note and remind the general public that, under no circumstance should public or private transport be used in transporting suspected EVD case. They are to call for support from the District Director of Health Services of respective Districts, Municipalities or Metropolis in the transfer of such persons to a health facility.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small flourish.

DR. PATRICK KUMA-ABOAGYE  
DIRECTOR GENERAL  
GHANA HEALTH SERVICE

## **CASE DEFINITION OF EVD**

**SUSPECTED CASE:** Any person, alive or dead, suffering or having suffered from a sudden onset of fever (37.8° C and above) and has not responded to treatment of usual diseases in the area, and has at least 3 or more of any of the following signs:

General weakness	Abdominal pain
Anorexia (loss of appetite)	Muscle or joint pain
Vomiting	Difficulty in breathing
Watery diarrhoea	Difficulty in swallowing
Headache	Hiccups
Bloody diarrhoea	Bleeding from nose, gums, skin etc

### **OR**

Any person who has travelled to or stayed in an area/country that is currently experiencing an EVD outbreak, within a period of 21 days before the onset of symptoms, presents with sudden onset of fever (37.8° C and above) and at least three of the following symptoms:

General weakness	Abdominal pain
Anorexia (loss of appetite)	Muscle or joint pain
Vomiting	Difficulty in breathing
Diarrhoea	Difficulty in swallowing
Headache	Hiccups
Bloody diarrhoea	Bleeding from nose, gums, skin etc

**OR** Any person with inexplicable bleeding

**OR** Any sudden, inexplicable death

**CONFIRMED CASE:** A suspected case with laboratory confirmation (positive IgM antibody, positive PCR or viral isolation) or epidemiologic link to confirmed cases or outbreak