



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Global Health Programme
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TO: Development NGOs, Volunteering agencies, Religious congregations

Subject: HSE advice on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) regarding personnel returning to Ireland

This communication is for the attention of NGOs, religious and other voluntary organisations which have Irish personnel working in countries affected by the Ebola virus outbreak. There is currently an extensive, ongoing outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

The HSE requests your assistance in preparing for the potential situation of a worker developing possible Ebola symptoms after returning to Ireland. The incubation period for Ebola virus disease is between 2 and 21 days.

The HSE asks you to ensure that humanitarian aid workers and healthcare workers returning from working to contain the outbreak (whether in a health care facility or other capacity) are referred to their local Department of Public Health on their return (see enclosed information leaflet for contact details). This includes those who had direct contact with Ebola patients or Ebola infected materials (specimens, healthcare risk waste & human remains).

Other healthcare workers and aid workers who had no close contact with Ebola patients or articles potentially contaminated by them do not need to make contact with Public Health.

It is best practice to have policies and procedures in place to debrief all personnel on their return to Ireland and inform them of the need to be referred to public health if they had contact with Ebola. The attached information leaflet is recommended for distribution to all returnees from the Ebola affected countries. They should be asked to read this carefully and to contact their local Department of Public Health if they have concerns.

Additionally, the HSE would like to know the numbers of Irish people working in Ebola affected areas.

How many Irish people are currently working with your organisation in activities to contain the Ebola outbreak in affected countries?

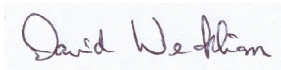
Please send this information to: david.weakliam@hse.ie

Up to date information about the Ebola outbreak is available from:

- Health Protection Surveillance Centre Website
– www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/Vectorborne/ViralHaemorrhagicFever/Ebola/
- WHO website – www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/

I appreciate your cooperation with these important public health measures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Weakliam". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr David Weakliam
Programme Lead

Enc. Information leaflet on Ebola virus for healthcare workers and NGOs