

## **Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF): Advice for Immigration Removal Centres**

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Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) is a general term for a severe illness, sometimes associated with bleeding, that may be caused by a number of viruses; Ebola virus being one of these. This document should be used as best practice for VHF.

Since March 2014 an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease occurred in West Africa. It involved four countries: Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Ebola is a rare but serious viral infection. However, people in the UK are not likely to be at risk of Ebola as the virus is only transmitted by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person.

Only a small number of new detainees at Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) will have arrived from high risk countries for VHF, however those that have may need to undergo a brief risk assessment to determine if they might be at risk of infection. This algorithm has been developed to assist IRC healthcare staff carrying out the initial health assessment of detainees.

If there are any concerns, please contact your local NHS board health protection team for further advice.

Further information about VHF can be found on the following webpages:

#### **Health Protection Scotland (HPS)**

<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/travel/viralhaemorrhagicfever.aspx>

#### **Public Health England (PHE) - including the outbreak and maps of affected area**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ebola-virus-disease-clinical-management-and-guidance>

#### **World Health Organization (WHO)**

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/index.html>.

## Current VHF Risk Assessment at Immigration Removal Centres

Algorithm to inform the initial assessment of detainees arriving at an IRC from high risk country

