

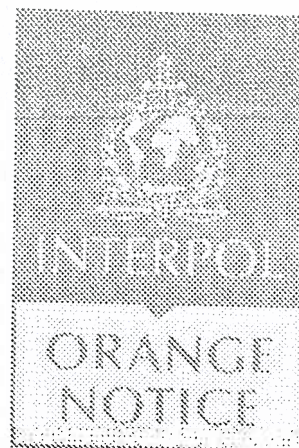
**Control No.: O-441/05-2018**

**Requesting country: IPSG**

**File No. 2018/46910-1**

**Date of publication: 30/05/2018**

**IMMINENT THREAT**




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**EBOLA VIRUS OUTBREAK IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

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**Date of discovery:** 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Place of discovery:** Bikoro, province of Equateur

**Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

**Circumstances of discovery:** On 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018, in accordance with the provisions of the International Health Regulations, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) notified the World Health Organisation (WHO) of two suspected cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the health zone of Bikoro, in the province of Equateur, which borders the Republic of Congo. Since then, two other health zones of the Equateur province have reported cases (Iboko and Wangata in the city of Mbandaka). As of 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018, a cumulative total of 58 EVD cases, including 27 deaths, have been reported from three health zones in the Equateur Province. Information about the extent of the outbreak is still limited and epidemiological investigations are ongoing. The confirmed case in Mbandaka, a large urban centre located on major national and international rivers, roads and domestic air routes, increases the risk of spread within the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to neighbouring countries. Therefore, WHO has revised the assessment of public health risk to very high at the national level and high at the regional level. Nine neighbouring countries, namely Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, have been advised that they are at high risk of spread. The public health risk at international level remains low. The DRC Ministry of Health is leading the response in affected health zones with the support of WHO and partners through various measures, including ring vaccination and contact tracing. EVD is an infectious disease that requires community and other stakeholders, including law enforcement, engagement for successfully controlling outbreaks. This outbreak may also represent an opportunity for the illicit acquisition of dangerous biological agent.

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**Description of object / What are the typical signs and symptoms of Ebola virus infection?  
device:**

Ebola symptoms vary but sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat are commonly experienced at the beginning of the disease ('the dry phase'). As the disease progresses, people commonly develop vomiting and diarrhoea ('the wet phase'), rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and in some cases, both internal and external bleeding.

**How do people become infected with the Ebola virus?**

People become infected with Ebola either through contact with infected animals (usually following butchering, cooking or eating) or through contact with the bodily fluids or secretions of infected humans. Human to human transmission occurs mainly when bodily fluids or secretions (stool, urine, saliva, semen) of infected people enters a healthy person's body through broken skin or mucous membranes, and eventually when coming into contact with items or environments contaminated with bodily fluids from an infected person. People are not contagious until they develop symptoms.

**How to prevent contamination from the Ebola virus?**

People can protect themselves from infection with Ebola virus following specific infection prevention and control measures. These include hand washing, avoiding contact with the bodily fluids of individuals who are suspected of or confirmed to have Ebola, and refraining from handling or preparing bodies of persons who are suspected of or confirmed to have died from Ebola.

**What treatment exist against Ebola?**

Supportive care, especially fluid replacement therapy, carefully managed and monitored by trained health workers improves chances of survival. An experimental Ebola vaccine proved highly protective against Ebola virus in a major trial in Guinea and is currently used to vaccinate at-risk populations in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Recommended precaution measures:

It is highly recommended to relay this Orange Notice to your law enforcement services in order to inform them of the situation and prevention measures that can be taken.

### What can law enforcement do to support public health authorities?

- Create and maintain effective liaison between Public Health and facilitate discussions with the local community to ensure the safety and wellbeing of officials and medical staff.
- Prepare to assist Public Health authorities/WHO by providing security during contact tracing activities and identify and allocate resources for these activities.
- Provide assistance at points of entry during Health evaluation.
- Seek advice from Public Health regarding appropriate selection, use and decontamination of PPE where required.
- Law enforcement maybe involved in ensuring the security of health facility, vehicles or burial sites housing Ebola infected samples and individuals.
- Vigilance should be raised regarding suspect behaviours around facilities storing samples or bodies of infected people or vehicles transporting these samples to and from health facilities.

### How should law enforcement (first responders) act if they suspect they are facing infected people?

Should they have to respond to an incident involving a person infected or suspected to be, police officers must wear appropriate personal protective equipment, as advised by public health authorities, to protect their eyes, nose, mouth and hands and avoid contact with bodily fluids which may contain infectious agents.

Further details on how to respond can be found in the following video :

<https://youtu.be/ptGwNVCs8Vg?t=8m48s> or (English) <https://youtu.be/TgHax3rXFLM?t=9m12s>  
(French)

### Additional resources:

- Information on the current outbreak situation can be found on the WHO website <http://www.who.int/ebola/situation-reports/drc-2018/en/>
- Further information on the transmission of the Ebola Virus and prevention measures can be found on WHO dedicated webpages <http://www.who.int/ebola/en/>, <http://www.who.int/ebola/fr/> in English and French respectively.
- Basic biosafety measures to prevent contamination in dealing with or approaching a person suspected of EVD should be applied (<https://youtu.be/ptGwNVCs8Vg>).