

General Information regarding the risk of Ebola Virus Disease for IPCC delegates

- **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 sore throat are typical signs and symptoms. This is 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 had contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have EVD; or 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 as having had contact and you should monitor your temperature twice a day for 21 days.

- **What if I start to show symptoms of EVD while I am abroad?**

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, immediately contact the hotline and follow their instructions.

All delegates should carefully observe hand hygiene and use the disinfectant gel provided at the conference

What to do if I start having symptoms?

Early Symptoms

Ebola can only be spread to others after symptoms begin. Symptoms can appear from 2 to 21 days after exposure.

- **Fever**
- **Stomach pain**
- **Headache**
- **Unexplained bleeding or bruising**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Muscle pain**
- **Vomiting**

- **What to do if I start having symptoms during working/meeting hours at IPCC-40:**

Immediately call the EVD HOTLINE and contact the first aid staff at the venue. Please also immediately inform Mr Carlos Martin-Novella and Ms Anita Valentin by telephone (see below). In case your condition requires evaluation for possible EVD, an isolation room will be available and trained and equipped emergency medical staff with an ambulance will be called in to assist.

- **What to do during non-working/meeting hours:**

If you are staying at a hotel, **please do not approach the hotel reception or use public or private transport to get to a hospital or clinic.**

Stay in your hotel room and call the EVD HOTLINE immediately. Please also immediately inform Mr Carlos Martin-Novella and Ms Anita Valentin by telephone (see below). **Emergency medical assistance will be sent to your hotel room.**

- **What to do following my return from the meeting:**

For delegates who traveled from EVD affected countries, if you develop Ebola-like symptoms within 14 days after your return from the meeting contact your local health authorities. If a case of suspected or confirmed EVD is professionally diagnosed please inform the IPCC Secretariat (CMartin-Novella@wmo.int) and Ms Anita Valentin (Email: anval@kebmin.dk) immediately.

Delegates who traveled from other countries will be informed immediately if any suspected case of EVD is declared during or following the meeting and advised if they need to monitor for symptoms for a 21 day period.

IPCC Copenhagen EVD HOTLINE (Tel.) +45 1813

Please also inform:

- *Carlos Martin-Novella, Deputy Secretary of the IPCC – Tel.: +41 797 088 699*
- *Anita Valentin, Ministry of Climate, Energy and Building, Denmark – Tel.: +45 413 39 501
Email: anval@kebmin.dk*