Exit Screening

Ebola Guidance Package

September 2014
Exit screening at Points of Entry of States with Ebola Transmission

Rationale for exit screening at Point of Entry in States with Ebola transmission

- Following IHR recommendations (2005), States with Ebola transmission should conduct exit screening of all persons at international airports, seaports and major land crossings (point of entry – POE), for unexplained febrile illness consistent with potential Ebola infection.
- The purpose of exit screening is to identify ill persons with possible infection or exposure to Ebola virus disease (EVD) and to prevent them from further travel, especially internationally. Any person with an illness consistent with EVD should not be allowed to travel unless the travel is part of an appropriate medical evacuation.
- Screening exit control should be conducted before check-in counters, such as at the first security check to entry terminals for airport for instance.
- The exit screening should consist of, at a minimum, a questionnaire, a temperature measurement and, if there is a fever, an assessment of the risk that the fever is caused by EVD.
- Steps below should be implemented by trained personnel with adequate use of PPE, for medical assessment, and identification of contacts.

Steps for exit screening

1. Primary screening to identify travelers for exposure risk and signs of illness with EVD
   - All travelers requested to fill in the travel health questionnaire to detect exposure risk and symptoms
   - Trained staff working at POE to observe travelers and detect signs and symptoms of disease
   - Temperature screening of all travelers

   *If a traveler has fever or an exposure risk, he/she should go through secondary screening.
   *If a traveler has neither fever or exposure risk, he/she may proceed with travel.

2. Secondary screening to further assess the risk of exposure / infection of travelers by trained public health officers
   - People identified with suspected EVD infection/exposure are evaluated for signs and symptoms by trained public health staff
   - Public health staff will conduct a public health interview (more in-depth questionnaire) and repeat temperature screening

   *Based on the secondary screening public health officer may either allow the travel or refer the traveler to public health or medical authorities.

3. Referral to public health or medical authorities
   - Organize transport to medical facility and notify public health authorities
   - Place the traveler referred on travel restriction list

Exit screening process should be accompanied by an extensive public communications campaign to educate the travelling population and travel industry of the intent by the government to screen travelers.