Ebola: advice for educational, childcare and young persons’ settings and risk assessment algorithm to support staff and health professionals in providing most appropriate care.  

22.10.2014

Background:  
There is currently an outbreak of Ebola occurring in West Africa. It was first reported in March 2014 in Guinea and since late May has involved four countries: Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Apart from one repatriated health care worker there have been no cases in the UK and the risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is low.

Ebola is a rare but serious viral infection. People in the UK would only be at risk of Ebola if they have direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person.

It remains unlikely, but not impossible, that a child/student/learner infected in Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone could arrive in the UK. The affected countries have exit screening at airports to ensure that individuals who are unwell do not board flights. This is in line with World Health Organization (WHO) guidance and is one of many measures to reduce the risk of international spread of disease.

In Summary:  
- The risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is low.
- Transmission of Ebola from person to person is by direct contact with the blood and body fluids of an ill person with the disease. The virus is not spread by the airborne route.
- The time between contact with the infected person and the time that first symptoms appear (incubation period of Ebola) ranges from two to 21 days.
- Any persons arriving back in the UK having travelled from any of the affected countries, and who are well, are not infectious and there should be no restrictions on their school, college or other learning attendance or normal activities.
- Only people with symptoms of Ebola can infect others. Symptoms include fever, diarrhoea and vomiting.

When to take action:  
In the coming academic term you may have children/students/learners returning or travelling from countries which are affected by Ebola in West Africa. Should such children/students/learners become unwell within the first 21 days after their return with symptoms of fever, chills, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting or rash you will need to:
   1. Separate the unwell child, student or learner from others and
2. Contact your local health protection team immediately (see below) who will guide you through the attached algorithm. The health protection team will coordinate the initial assessment and or transfer of the child/student/learner to a health care facility.

If the child/student/learner has been back in Wales for more than 21 days then refer on to health professionals in the normal way.
The local health protection team is happy to support any staff or other children/students/learners who may have concerns.

All staff or those with contact with children should already be aware of what to do if a child/student/learner falls ill and there is general guidance (referenced below) on infection control in school and childcare settings.

Public Health Wales: http://www.publichealthwales.org/ebola

Public Health England (including the outbreak and maps of affected area and Ebola Q&A)):
http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Ebola/

Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings

Foreign Travel advice

To contact your local Health Protection Team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Authority/Local Health Board area</th>
<th>Telephone number</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea</td>
<td>01792 607387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Powys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Vale of Glamorgan</td>
<td>029 2040 2478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen</td>
<td>01495 332219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham</td>
<td>01352 803234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Out of hours please contact Public Health On-call by phoning the following Ambulance Control Centres and requesting the public health doctor on-call.
North Wales: 01248 689123
Mid &West Wales: 01267 229476
South East Wales: 01633 626118
Ebola risk assessment in educational, childcare and young persons’ settings

This algorithm is to inform the assessment of unwell children in educational, childcare and young persons’ settings, and will assist the public health response and ensure the appropriate organisations are informed. If the child is unable to answer questions, please seek information from the responsible adult.

Does the child/student/learner appear unwell? Symptoms to look out for include fever (e.g. pale skin, sweating or shivering), diarrhoea and vomiting, and weakness (e.g. unable to stand unsupported as appropriate for age)

If yes, ask these questions

Has the child/student/learner arrived from Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone or have they spent any time in these countries within the past 21 days?

If yes

If no, continue as normal

If no, follow usual guidance for dealing with an unwell child/young person

Health Protection will co-ordinate the initial assessment and or transfer of the child/student/learner as immediate medical assessment is needed