



Ebola: advice and risk assessment for educational, early years, childcare and young persons' settings

There is currently an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa. Three countries are chiefly affected: Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. There have also been a small number of cases in healthcare workers who have treated Ebola patients in the USA and Spain.

Ebola is a rare but serious viral infection. People in the UK are at low risk of Ebola, as the virus is only transmitted by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person, showing symptoms of the disease.

There have been no cases of Ebola virus disease being contracted in the UK.

It remains unlikely but not impossible that people infected in Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone could arrive in the UK. These countries have exit screening at airports to ensure that individuals who are unwell do not board flights. The UK has also introduced entry screening for people arriving from these three countries. However, as the time between infection and symptoms first appearing can be up to 21 days, it is possible that individuals returning from affected countries could develop symptoms up to three weeks after arrival.

In summary:

- the risk of Ebola arriving in the UK is **low**
- transmission of Ebola from person to person is only by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an ill person with the disease. The virus is **not** spread by the airborne route
- the time between infection and symptoms first appearing (incubation period) of Ebola ranges from two to 21 days
- people arriving back in the UK having travelled from any of the **affected countries**, and who are free of symptoms, are **not infectious** and there should be **no restrictions** on their school attendance or normal activities
- Only people with symptoms of Ebola can infect others. Symptoms include fever, diarrhea and vomiting.

The attached flowchart (see page 3) will help educational, childcare and young persons' settings understand what to do if they have children/students returning or visiting from affected countries.

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

Further information about the Ebola outbreak can be obtained from your local health protection team ([see postcode lookup](#)) and on the following websites:

Public Health England (including the outbreak and maps of affected area):

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

<https://www.gov.uk/ebola-and-marburg-haemorrhagic-fevers-outbreaks-and-case-locations>

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

Guidance on Infection Control in Schools and other Childcare Settings

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-control-in-schools-poster>

Foreign travel advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

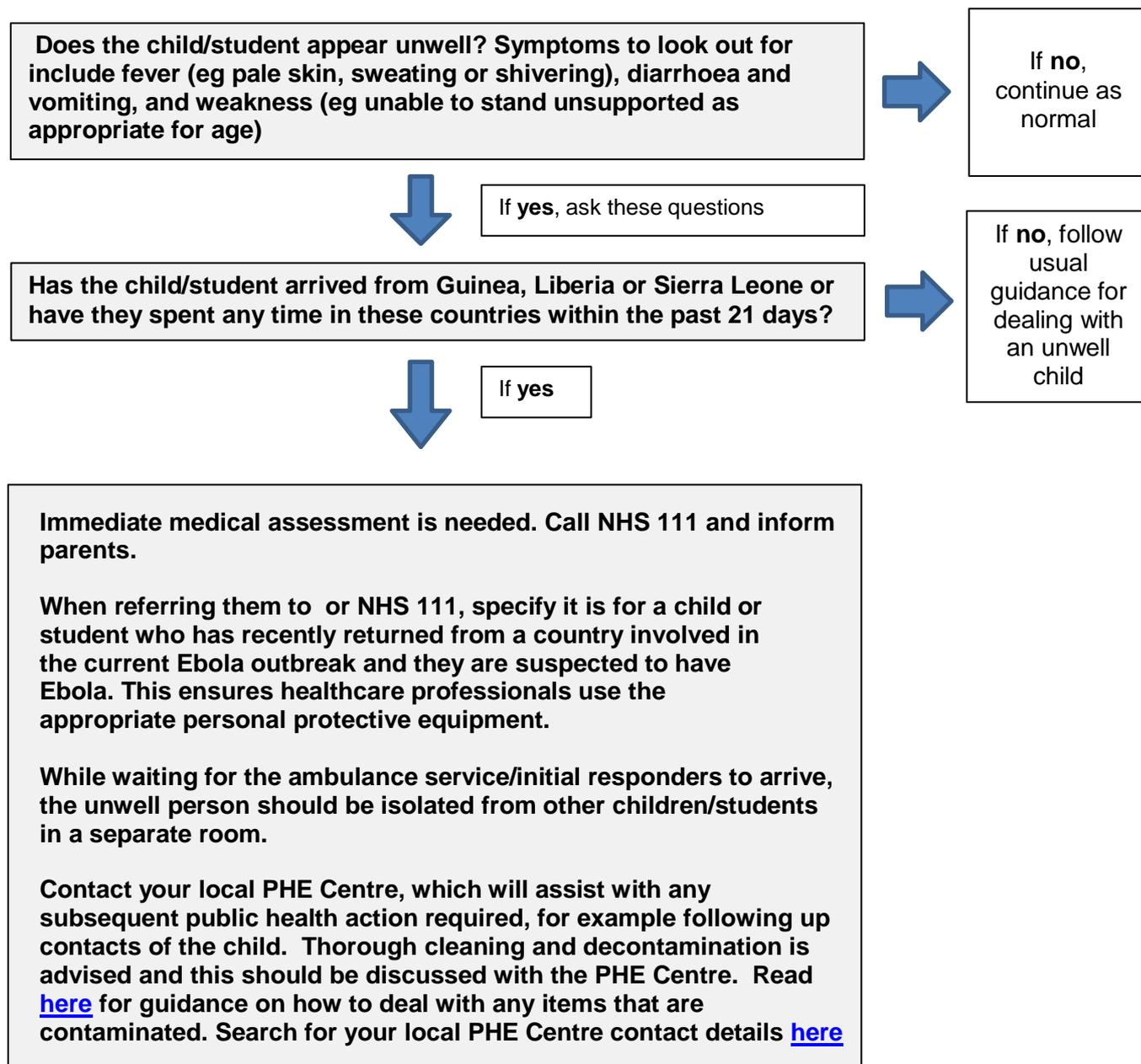
Ebola: environmental cleaning guidance for potential contamination (excluding healthcare settings)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ebola-environmental-cleaning-guidance-for-potential-contamination-excluding-healthcare-settings>



Ebola risk assessment in educational, early years, childcare and young persons' settings

This flowchart explains how to assess an unwell child in educational, childcare and young persons' settings. **If the child is unable to answer questions, please seek information from the responsible adult.**



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