



## **Ebola statement**

*October 2014*

**The Faculty of Travel Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow advises travellers and medical professionals treating ebola patients to take adequate care to avoid further spread of the virus.**

Ebola virus is a very serious disease associated with high fatalities. It was first identified in Africa in the mid-1970s and outbreaks of disease caused by the virus have occurred on a few occasions in the last 40 years. The recent outbreak in West Africa is the deadliest to date. More than 3,850 people have died and the World Health Organisation has declared an international emergency. In the past week, some governments including the US and UK have announced they will commence screening travellers arriving to their countries.

Ebola spreads through bodily fluids and a person can only become infected if they have directly touched an ebola patient's body or bodily fluids, such as stools, urine, vomit, or blood which carries the virus. Ebola virus is generally not spread through routine social contact, such as shaking hands, with a patient who does not have symptoms.

People can protect themselves from contracting ebola by:

- Avoiding contact with an infected person (including soiled clothing)
- Wearing protective clothing when handling unsterilized needles or medical equipment used to treat an infected person
- Wearing protective clothing when treating an infected person