**OVERVIEW OF EBOLA FOR TRAVELERS**

Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans and non-human primates – such as monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees – caused by infection with a virus of the genus Ebola virus.

As a worldwide leader in travel insurance solutions and global assistance, AIG Travel would like to update clients traveling to West Africa on the recent outbreak of Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever in this region. We have been closely monitoring the situation and updating our clients traveling and working in these endemic areas.

**SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**
Symptoms appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to the Ebola virus, though 8 to 10 days is common. These symptoms may be similar to other viral or bacterial illnesses (i.e., malaria).

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**CONTPAGION AND RISKS**

- The virus is transmitted through close and direct contact with bodily fluids of infected animals or humans: blood, saliva, sweat, urine, semen and feces.
- The virus is not known to be contagious by aerosol means.
- Infected patients are not known to be contagious unless they are symptomatic (i.e., they are not contagious during the incubation period).
- Those most at risk of being infected with the virus are healthcare workers caring for infected individuals, family members or others in close contact with infected individuals, mourners or others who have direct contact with the bodies of the deceased as part of burial ceremonies and bush hunters who come in contact with dead animals in the rain forest.

**PREVENTION TIPS**

- Avoid traveling to areas of known outbreaks. Before traveling, check with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website, www.cdc.gov, on current epidemics.
- Wash your hands frequently. Use soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand rubs with at least 60 percent alcohol when soap and water aren’t available.
- Avoid bush meat. In developing countries, wild animals, including nonhuman primates, are sold in local markets. Avoid buying or eating any of these types of meat.
- Decontamination of surfaces: Commercially available disinfectants (Lysol) are effective against Ebola virus; dilute bleach solution: 1 part household bleach to 9 parts water.
- Avoid contact with infected people.
- Keep infected people isolated from others.

**PREPARATION**

- Have a plan in place should someone exhibit symptoms of viral infection.
- Seek immediate assistance from medical professionals where possible. Additional preparation steps include:
  - Have a disinfection plan/materials.
  - Know how to contact local health authorities.
  - Know the location of local health facilities that are capable of assessing, testing and treating the disease.
  - Consider monitoring body temperature of all individuals entering your work area.

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**NOTE** Symptoms can start as early as two days after infection.

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For additional information, please visit our websites at www.aig.com/travel and www.aig.com/travelguard.

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