



Information for students and staff on the current situation regarding Ebola Virus

- The Ebola virus is only spread through direct contact with infected bodily fluids.
- People who are free of symptoms are not infectious even during the incubation of the illness.
- The Ebola virus is not airborne and is therefore not caught through social contact or for example sitting in the same room as an infected person.
- Casual contact in public places with people that do not appear to be sick does not transmit Ebola. You cannot contract Ebola virus by handling money, groceries or swimming in a pool.
- Ebola virus is easily killed by soap, sunlight, or drying. Machine washing clothes that have been contaminated with fluids will destroy Ebola virus. Ebola virus survives only a short time on surfaces that are in the sun or have dried.
- The virus is not as easy to catch as other well known viruses such as measles.
- Given the current containment strategies that have been put in place, the World Health Organisation advise that it is very unlikely that cases will spread to countries such as the UK.
- Even if you are living in, or have travelled to, affected areas the risk of infection with Ebola virus is very low.

Advice for students and staff who are concerned about themselves or a friend

1. Do you have a fever (>38 degrees Centigrade) or history of fever in the last 24 hours?
2. Have you returned from a country where Ebola virus is endemic (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea) or have you cared for/come into contact with bodily fluids from known/highly suspected case in the last 21 days?

If the answer to either of these questions is no, then you should seek treatment and medical advice in the normal way. Students living in Halls of Residence should also contact illnessinhalls@brunel.ac.uk for further advice and support.

If the answer to both these questions is yes, you should notify your registered GP immediately or call NHS Direct by dialling 111. Students living in Halls of Residence should also contact illnessinhalls@brunel.ac.uk for further advice and support.

All students living in Halls of Residence are strongly advised to register with the Medical Centre as soon as possible after arriving.

Travel advice for staff and students

Up to date travel advice can be obtained from: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>