

U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal

Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Update on Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in Guinea

March 28, 2014

This is an update to the notice of March 26, 2014, in which we alerted U.S. citizens to the confirmed outbreak of Ebola virus in neighboring Guinea.

As of March 27, 2014, World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that there were 103 suspected individuals with the Ebola virus with 64 fatalities. There are 16 confirmed individuals with the Ebola virus in Guinea. While the majority of these cases are in the southeast area of Guinea, far from the capital, there have been five confirmed individuals with one fatality in Conakry. In Conakry, the individuals with Ebola are all in the same family. They cared for the patient who died after he attended a funeral in the area of the Ebola outbreak.

WHO confirmed eight suspected individuals with Ebola with six fatalities in Liberia, and six suspected individuals with five fatalities in Sierra Leone. All of these cases are in areas that border the affected provinces in Guinea. There have been NO cases in Senegal or Guinea Bissau to date.

The Guinean government has limited the sale of bats and traditional bat dishes to minimize the risk of additional cases. The U.S. Embassy in Dakar notes that:

- Ebola virus is contracted from individuals who are already showing symptoms that include high fever, diarrhea, bloody vomit, and bleeding from body cavities.
- The illness is NOT contagious before individuals exhibit these symptoms; therefore, it is recommended to avoid individuals showing these symptoms.
- Symptoms may not show up in exposed individuals for 2-21 days.

Medical experts have recommended:

- Not eating bush meat.
- Avoiding handling bodily fluids of ill individuals unless universal precautions, i.e., protective gear that healthcare workers wear, are taken.
- Not participating in funeral practices that involve touching the dead body, or touching the body of someone who has died, or is suspected to have died from Ebola.

Good hand washing is always advisable, particularly around individuals who are ill. If you are ill, DO NOT travel, go to work, or meet with other individuals.

For more information on Ebola hemorrhagic fever, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website](#). You can also call 1-888-407-4747.

To obtain CDC travel notices, call the CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) from within the United States, or 1-404-639-3534 from overseas, or visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Senegal enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the [State Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for Senegal and neighboring countries](#). For additional information, refer to the "[Traveler's Checklist](#)" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is +221 33 879 4444 and ask to speak to the duty officer. You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the [U.S. Embassy website](#) or sending an email message to DakarACS@state.gov.