

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EBOLA

## KEY MESSAGES FOR HEAD TEACHERS

### Basic principles

The following basic principles can help keep students, teachers, and staff safe at school and help stop the spread of Ebola.

- Students, teachers, and staff, who are sick should not come to school
- Schools should encourage frequent hand washing and daily disinfection and cleaning of school surfaces
- Schools should minimize physical contact between members of the school community
- Schools should follow national and local Ebola guidelines and safe school environment guidance, including separating sick people and reporting immediately to a health worker if someone appears to be sick with Ebola

### Facts about Ebola

- ***Ebola is a serious and often deadly disease that can be spread by:***
  - Direct physical contact with blood, urine, faeces, vomit, diarrhoea, or other body fluids of a person who is sick with or

who has died from Ebola

- Touching objects with the body fluids of a sick person (like bandages, mattresses, clothes or utensils)
- Using skin piercing instruments that have been used by a person infected with Ebola
- Contact with or eating bush meat, such as monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas, baboons and bats
- A person can only spread Ebola when he or she is infected with the Ebola virus
- Early treatment improves the chances of surviving Ebola
- Someone who has survived Ebola is not contagious and would not be able to spread the virus to people through school activities

Sudden onset of fever	Headache
Intense body weakness	Muscle pain
Sore throat	Vomiting
Bloody diarrhoea or urine	Bleeding from body openings

Ebola symptoms can be similar to symptoms from other infections. Most illnesses and fevers are not caused by Ebola.

## KEY STEPS

Head teachers can help keep their schools safe for everybody. Here are the key steps to make sure this happens:

### Choose your school's "Ebola Response Leader(s)"

The headteacher should assume the Ebola response leadership in the school because of the Ebola emergency situation, but establish a team to spearhead effective implementation of the response.

### Plan for Ebola

Strengthen health and safety in the school especially practicing personal hygiene and proper sanitation. Work with the nearby health facility to improve vigilance in monitoring, identifying, and referring any student or staff who might have come into contact with an Ebola patient or dead person, or has Ebola-like symptoms

### Provide equipment and supplies

Recommending resources that are readily accessible to teachers i.e. resources from the health facility or district education office rather than referring them to organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, CDC/USAID.

### Prepare teachers, staff, parents, students, and the community for the school reopening

Make sure that everyone understands how to stay safe and healthy at school by using this information to communicate during school assemblies and in staff meetings. Liaise with the nearest health facility for support for further information and services.

### Regularly tell your teachers, staff, parents, students, and the community about the school's Ebola precautions and any incidents

Students, teachers, staff, parents, and the community will continue to have questions even after school has begun. Providing regular information about

Ebola safety, even if you have nothing new to share, will help them remain confident that the school is taking Ebola prevention seriously, and that the school is safe.

### Guidance on whom should or should not attend school

Schools should follow the national Ebola guidelines and make sure that anyone who has a fever or symptoms of Ebola stays away from school and seeks medical care from a health facility until they are well.

### Screening for fever

Some schools may choose to screen everybody for fever as they enter the school, either every day, or on a regular schedule.

- Where available, the school nurse should measure the students' temperature, but for cases where a school nurse is not available in a school, the Head teacher should make sure that screening staff know how to take a temperature accurately and regular refresher training should be provided.
- If a student has a fever, schools should plan in advance how to handle students or staff with fever by referring them to the nearest health facility.

### If a person gets sick during the day

Isolate the person with symptoms of Ebola from other students, teachers, or staff: (keep a distance of 1 meter (3 feet) or more between the person with symptoms and others).

Know the referral facilities in your area and contact the health workers in the area immediately.

Check his or her temperature with a non-contact thermometer.

**Note: Most fevers will be caused by something other than Ebola, like Malaria.**

Report all suspected cases to the nearest health facility immediately.

For further information send a FREE SMS to Ureport on: **8500** or call toll free on: **0800 100066**

**TOGETHER WE CAN PREVENT THE SPREAD OF EBOLA**