

2019 EBOLA PREPAREDNESS MEETINGS

The Bahamas Ministry of Health is in the process of hosting a series of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Re-sensitization Meetings with public and private sector agencies. Presently the threat of EVD affecting our shores is low, and the possibility of an outbreak throughout our islands, highly unlikely.

These meetings seek to remind agencies of the Ebola protocols of 2014 and encourage them to update their plans, documents and personnel as it pertains to the EVD procedures. Our country's collective ability and preparedness to respond to Ebola Virus Disease, if the need arises, should be high and coordinated.

Ebola is a severe and often fatal disease. A person can get EVD by coming into contact with blood or body fluids from another person or animal who is sick with or has died from Ebola, or from coming into contact with Ebola contaminated surfaces. The risk increases if a person travels to or lives in areas where Ebola virus outbreaks are occurring.

In August 2018, an EVD outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Africa, was declared. The outbreak was contained within the DRC until recently when cases of Ebola were reported in two bordering cities with millions of residents.

As a result of the concern for potential further spread of the disease, on 17th July, 2019, the World Health Organization's Emergency Committee, headed by the Director-General, under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) declared the Ebola outbreak in the DRC, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

The Bahamas Ministry of Health continues to ensure that the surveillance at our ports of entry and health care facilities is enhanced.

