

Original Article

The Current Ebola Outbreak in West Africa and the Response Measures in Taiwan

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Abstract

In February 2014, the outbreak of Ebola virus disease happened at first in Guinea, then expanded to the neighboring countries, Liberia and Sierra Leone, and even reached to Nigeria. With the rapidly increasing cases and deaths, the 2014 Ebola outbreak is the largest one in history and the first in West Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) announced on 8th August 2014 that the current outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) has been met. In response to the Ebola outbreak, Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (Taiwan CDC) had raised travel alert and taken measures for preparedness and response in early April. On 8th August Taiwan CDC upgraded the response level and established "Ebola Virus Disease Emergency Response Task Force" to enforce four main measures: Health Education for Outbound Passengers, Quarantine for Incoming Passengers, Preparedness and Drill Performance, and International Cooperation. Taiwan CDC continues to watch closely the outbreak progress and timely adjust the response and control measures.

Keywords: Ebola Virus Disease, Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

The Diagnosis, Treatment and Infection Control of Ebola Virus Disease

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Abstract

Ebola virus has caused several outbreaks in Africa since 1976, but the 2014 West Africa Ebola virus outbreak is the most severe outbreak in history. The World Health Organization also declared that the outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Fruit bats are considered the likely natural host of the Ebola virus, and human infection occurs from direct contact with diseased animals, and transmitted from human to human mainly by direct contact. The initial symptoms may include fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. In some cases, this is followed by bleeding tendency, multiple organ failure and death. At present, there is no specific drug or vaccine against Ebola virus. In order to prevent disease spreading, it is important to avoid traveling to endemic area, wear appropriate personal protective equipment and implement infection control method.

Key words: Ebola virus disease, Public Health Emergency of International Concern, Infection control

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