WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT EBOLA

What can I do to prevent the illness?

- Always wash your hands with soap clean water especially after every contact with a sick person.
- Do not share sharp objects such as needles, razor blades, etc.
- Avoid handling wild animals especially monkeys, chimpanzees, antelopes and bats, including those found dead.
- Avoid eating ‘bush’ meat.
- Avoid eating fruits that bats have partly eaten.
- Use protective clothing like gloves when caring for a sick person.

When should somebody seek medical help?

One should seek immediate medical help from the nearest health facility or call 6666 toll free, if a person has been in an area known to have Ebola disease outbreak or in contact with a person known or suspected to have Ebola and she/he develops signs and symptoms.

Is it safe to travel?

The World Health Organization is not recommending a travel ban to affected countries.

The risk of infection for travellers is very low since person-to-person transmission results from direct contact with the body fluids or secretions of a person or animal infected with Ebola.

General Travel advice

- Travellers should avoid any contact with people or animals suspected to be infected with Ebola.
- Travellers entering the country are screened and monitored for Ebola at Juba International Airport and other major high risk border points of entry.
- Ebola is a serious disease BUT can be PREVENTED if you follow the advice given.

The Government of South Sudan is committed to protecting its people from a possible Ebola outbreak.

A national Ebola multi-sectoral task force, that includes various key Government ministries, agencies is in place to co-ordinate the preparedness and response. Similar arrangements are in place in high risk states.

For more information on Ebola contact the nearest Health facility or Call TOLL-FREE on 6666
What is Ebola?

Ebola is a serious disease caused by Ebola virus and often kills in a short time. It affects human beings and wild animals (monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees).

Why know about Ebola?

An outbreak of Ebola has been reported in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) raising concern of its possible spread to neighbouring countries including South Sudan.

How do people get Ebola?

Human beings get Ebola through direct contact with the body fluids such as blood, saliva, tears, stool, vomitus, urine, and semen of infected person or animals and contaminated materials (e.g. bedding, clothing).

Ebola enters the body through the mouth, nose and eyes or a cut in the skin.

What are the signs and symptoms of Ebola?

Sudden onset of high fever extreme tiredness, body pain, headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, skin rash, red eyes and sometimes unexplained bleeding from body openings. It takes 2 to 21 days from infection with Ebola Virus to start showing signs and symptoms.

Who is at most risk of contracting Ebola?

Everyone is at a risk but most especially those who have recently travelled to DRC and been in contact with sick people; health workers while treating Ebola patients; mourners who have direct contact with the dead bodies of infected people or their soiled belonging at funerals/burials; and hunters while handling infected wild animals.

Is there medicine and vaccine for Ebola?

Currently, there is no specific medicine to cure Ebola, patients are provided with intensive supportive care and some recover from the illness. However, there are some medicines being tried.

One vaccine (only for Ebola Zaire Virus) has been used on trial basis during Ebola outbreaks both in West Africa and DRC among the health workers and close contacts of those affected by Ebola. The vaccine though effective and approved for use during Ebola outbreaks, has not yet been licensed for routine use.

The Ministry of health of South Sudan intends to use this vaccine in case of an Ebola outbreak due to Ebola Zaire Virus type.