

Teaching Topic:

A Threat to Global Public Health: The Outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Relevant concepts / terms

- Disease Diagnosis (Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies → L & T Resources → Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts → NSS LS)
- Health Education (Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies → L & T Resources → Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts → NSS LS)
- Health (Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies → L & T Resources → Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts → NSS LS)
- Infectious Diseases (Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies → L & T Resources → Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts → NSS LS)
- International collaboration (in public health) (Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies → L & T Resources → Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts → NSS LS)
- Prevention of Diseases (Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies → L & T Resources → Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts → NSS LS)
- Public Health (Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies → L & T Resources → Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts → NSS LS)
- Public Health Services (Web-based Resource Platform for Liberal Studies → L & T Resources → Reading Materials for Relevant Concepts → NSS LS)
- Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) (World Health Organization
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/>)

Suggested questions for enquiry

- What is 'Ebola virus disease (EVD)'? How do people get EVD? What common symptoms does an infected person have?
- Identify and elaborate on three difficulties for the governments to prevent EVD from spreading. (Hints: Controlling their borders, international collaboration, rapid urbanization, awareness in public health, etc.)
- In the fight against EVD, the World Health Organization (WHO) plays an important role. Analyse its role and functions and evaluate its effectiveness on preventing the further spread of EVD.
- 'Globalization makes it more difficult to stop EVD from spreading to other parts of the world.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Suggested examples for enquiry provided by Resource Package (*Resource Package* P. 87)

- The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (Atypical Pneumonia, SARS) epidemic broke out in Hong Kong in 2003. To prevent the epidemic from spreading, the Government introduced a series of measures immediately after the outbreak. The public health awareness of different sectors of society was also improved.

Relevant news/ cases/ data/ commentaries/ pictures (Directly relevant or closely relevant topics)

- Editorial. (2014, Nov 4). 'Avoid panic and misinformation to stop plague.' *The Fayetteville Observer*.
- Wang Xiao Dong. (2014, Nov 3). 'Expert helps battle against Ebola'. *Hong Kong Edition, China Daily*.
- Fei Zhou. (2014, Nov 3). 'Working with Africa critical in Ebola fight.' *Globaltimes.cn*
- Melik Kaylan. (2014 Oct 6). 'Putin, ISIS, Ebola: How Globalization is harming us more than helping us.' *Forbes.com*.
- Miata Jambawai. (2014, Oct 6). 'As Ebola kills us off, where is help from the world?' *The Standard*.
- Editorial. (2014, Oct 5). 'World must stay vigilant on Ebola.' *South China Morning Post*.
- Daniel Flynn & Stephanie Nebehay. (2014, Oct 5). Aid workers ask where was WHO in Ebola outbreak? *Reuters*.
- Clifford A Kiracofe. (2014, Aug 28). 'Severe Ebola crisis puts into focus urgent need for health emphasis.' *Globaltimes.cn*.
- Prabhjot Singh. (2014, Aug 26). 'Community health workers key to containing Ebola.' *Shanghai Daily*.
- Mimi Lau. (2014, Aug 23). 'United response to the deadly threat of Ebola.' *South China Morning Post*.
- HKSAR. (2014, Aug 20). 'Preparedness and Response Plan for Ebola Virus Disease Launched.' *HKSAR News*.
- Hari Kumar. (2014, Aug 13). 'Are we unprepared for Ebola crisis?' *South China Morning Post*.
- Ding Gang. (2014, Aug 7). 'Nations must learn disease knows no borders.' *Globaltimes.cn*.
- Larisa Epatko. (2014, Aug 5). 'Why it's hard to keep Ebola from spreading.' *PBS*

Newshour.

Assessment items (Directly relevant or closely relevant topics)

- Sickness and Work (ED 25)
- H1N1 Vaccination (EE 03)
- Development of Drugs (EE 50)
- New SARS and H7N9 (EE 38)

Learning objects (Directly relevant or closely relevant topics)

- China's Health Care System (LO_2008_0056e)
- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (LO_2008_0040e)
- History of understanding diseases (LO_2009_0310e)\
- Avian Influenza (LO_2009_0308e)
- Vaccination (LO_2009_0304e)
- How does the world prevent the spread of human swine influenza (LO_2009_0318e)
- The SARS event and the embodiment of accountability (LO_2009_0296e)
- Globalization, responsibility, understanding of public health (LO_2009_0318c)

Relevant or comparable examples for enquiry

- **The Outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS):** The SARS experience was known as a good example of showing the importance of international collaboration. An outbreak of SARS occurred among residents of Amoy Gardens, Kowloon Bay, towards the end of March 2003. It killed 774 people across the world, including 299 in Hong Kong. Some experts said that SARS revolutionised people's understanding of the power of real-time communication. During the outbreak, the WHO issued daily situation updates, keeping the public and the media fully informed, as knowledge about the disease and effective measures for control began to emerge.
 - The Standard. (2014, Nov 17). 'Ebola team to staff clinic'. *The Standard*. Retrieved from http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?we_cat=3&art_id=151430&sid=43379355&con_type=1&d_str=20141117&fc=10
 - World Health Organization. (2006). *SARS: How a Global Epidemic Was Stopped*. WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific.
 - Margaret Chan. (2013, Feb 20). 'The Lessons of SARS, 10 Years On.' *South China Morning Post*.

- World Health Organization. (2003, May 20). 'Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS): Status of the outbreak and lessons for the immediate future.' Geneva: World Health Organization. Retrieved from http://www.who.int/csr/media/sars_wha.pdf

- **The International Spread of Swine Flu:** The virus is officially known as influenza A virus subtype H1N1. The virus was first identified in Mexico in April 2009 and was also known as Mexican flu. Its spread around the world was classed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a global pandemic. The virus became known as swine flu because the virus closely resembled known influenza viruses that cause illness in pigs. Cases were confirmed in at least 171 countries and territories and the illness caused hundreds of deaths. It spread rapidly from country to country because it was a new type of flu virus that few people were immune to.
 - World Health Organization. 'Swine influenza in humans' Retrieved from http://www.who.int/influenza/human_animal_interface/swine_influenza/en/
 - Ariana Eunjung Cha. (2014, Feb 19). ' Swine flu' strain returns: dramatic rise in deaths of young adults, children.' *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/death-toll-from-flu-rises-as-h1n1-strain-returns-with-young-invincibles-most-affected/2014/02/19/71f539f4-98b0-11e3-b931-0204122c514b_story.html ;
 - Alok Jha. (2013, Nov 12). 'A deadly disease could travel at jet speed around the world. How do we story it in time?' *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/science/2013/nov/12/deadly-disease-modern-global-epidemic>
 - HKSAR. 'Swine Flu – the Facts' Retrieved from <http://theme.gov.hk/en/theme/fightpandemic/facts.htm>

Other resources

- ABC News. (2014, September 22). 'Ebola: Inside the Deadly Outbreak (Documentary 2014).' Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0Jpn22HJys> (Video Length: 35 minutes)
- BBC News. 'Ebola Outbreak.' <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-28754546>
- Bueche, Shelley. (2004). *The Ebola Virus*. San Diego, Calif: Thomson/Gale; Farmington Hills, MI: Kidhaven Press. (Hong Kong Public Libraries Call Number: 616.92 BUE)
- Callahan, G. N. (2006). *Infection: The Uninvited Universe*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

- Centre for Health Protection, HKSAR. (Updated on 2014, October 31). 'Information related to Ebola virus disease.' Retrieved from http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/34199.html
- Diamond, Jared M. (1997). *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (Hong Kong Public Libraries Call Number: 301.24 DIA)
- Edward Hadas. (2014, October 10). 'Breaking News: Ebola globalization danger'. *Reuters*. Retrieved from <http://uk.reuters.com/video/2014/10/10/breakingviews-ebola-globalisation-danger?videoId=346522266> (Video length: 4 minutes 12 seconds)
- Horowitz, Leonard G. (1999). *Emerging Viruses: AIDS and Ebola: nature, accident, or intentional?* Sandpoint, Idaho: Tetrahedron. (Hong Kong Public Libraries Call Number: 616.92 HOR)
- Kimball, Ann Marie. (2006). *Risky Trade: Infectious Disease in the Era of Global Trade*. Burlington: Ashgate Publishing Company.
- Oxford University Press. 'Free access to OUP resources for Ebola World Health Emergency.' Retrieved from <http://www.oxfordjournals.org/en/our-journals/medicine-and-health/ebola.html>
- Patterson Clark. (2014, Nov 5). 'Ebola in Africa: An update.' *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/page/national/ebola-in-africa-an-update/1433/>
- World Health Organization. (2014, Nov). 'Potential Ebola Therapies and Vaccines.' World Health Organization. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/potential-therapies-vaccines/en/>
- World Health Organization. (2012). 'International Travel and Health'. World Health Organization. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/ith/en/>
- World Health Organization. 'Ebola Virus Disease.' World Health Organization. Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/>
- Willett, Edward. (2003). *Ebola Virus*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow Pub. (Hong Kong Public Libraries Call Number: 616.92 WIL)