
Genève, Friday 21 November, 2014

The University Hospitals of Geneva welcome a patient with Ebola virus disease

Following the decision taken on 18 November 2014 by the Federal Office of Public Health (Swiss Confederation) to accept the request of the World Health Organization, based in Geneva, to receive a Cuban doctor suffering from Ebola virus disease, the patient was transferred on 20 November from Sierra Leone. He travelled by means of a private ambulance aircraft which landed on 20 November 2014 at 23:30 (local time) at Geneva International Airport.

Wearing personal protective equipment and a mask, the patient came out of the plane by his own means. He was transferred from the airport to the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) along the Geneva state procedure. The ambulance was escorted by the police.

Upon arrival at 0:36 at the HUG, the patient was directly admitted to a special room prepared for such cases, in an isolated area of the hospital. A team, specifically trained for this type of healthcare situation and wearing protective equipment appropriate for the management of patients with haemorrhagic fever, immediately took care of him. The dressing and undressing of healthcare personnel always takes place under supervision.

After the establishment of a comprehensive case history, samples were taken for laboratory analysis and the patient received his first treatments. Today, his condition is stable. He was able to call and reassure his family in Cuba.

All measures have been and are being taken to ensure the safety of all patients and personnel.

More information

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Next press release: Saturday 22 November 2014, 17h