EBOLA VIRUS IN SEMEN: A GUIDE FOR SURVIVORS

The risk of spreading the Ebola virus from a survivor to another person is low. However, once a man has recovered from Ebola, it is possible to transmit the virus to a partner through sexual transmission, since the virus persists in a male survivor’s semen long after he has recovered.

As with other sexually transmitted diseases, male survivors must protect their sexual partner from the Ebola virus by using a condom during any sex act or by abstaining from having sex. Using one of these two approaches is critical during the first 12 months after discharge from an Ebola care and treatment center (ETU/ETC).

FOR MALE SURVIVORS AND THEIR PARTNERS

Within the first 3 months of disease onset:
- Enroll in your national semen testing program

During the first 12 months after discharge from Ebola treatment:
- Use a condom during any sex act or abstain from having sex
RISK OF TRANSMITTING EBOLA THROUGH SEMEN

50% of male survivors will still have Ebola in their semen for up to 4 months following recovery/discharge.

10% of male survivors will still have Ebola in their semen for up to 10 months following recovery/discharge.

In rare cases, the Ebola virus has persisted in older survivors for up to 2.6 years (32 months).

Source: U.S. National Institutes of Health, PREVAIL III

FOR FEMALE SURVIVORS, THEIR PARTNERS, AND THEIR CHILDREN

Once a person has recovered, there is no evidence of transmission of Ebola through other bodily fluids, such as blood, breast milk, vaginal, or amniotic fluid.

However, the virus may persist in the placenta, amniotic fluid, and fetus of women who became infected while pregnant. The virus may also persist in breast milk of women who have been infected while breastfeeding.

Transmission of the virus is very rare and therefore women are encouraged to maintain normal delivery and breastfeeding practices once they have recovered from Ebola.

NATIONAL SEMEN TESTING PROGRAMS IN SIERRA LEONE

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