

## MOH/CDC/WHO Viral Persistence Study Counseling Scripts

### Talking points-MEN

We do not yet know if there is any possibility of passing Ebola to another person through semen, rectal fluids, sweat, tears, urine, or saliva. We believe the risk is very low, but we do not know for certain.

#### Pre-Test

##### Semen

- Greet the participant:
  - Remember to **express empathy** and happiness that they survived Ebola.
  - Ask how they are doing since they have recovered and if they have any questions.
- Discuss the **purpose** of the visit:
  - Give information to [the client] about the testing we will do to detect if pieces of the Ebola virus are in their semen.
  - You will also talk with them about things you can do in your life to reduce the risk of passing Ebola to a person you have sex with.
- Talk about **confidentiality** and **possible discomfort**:
  - Let the participant know that anything they tell you will be confidential.
  - Let the client know that if they feel uncomfortable at any time, they can tell you and you will move on.
  - Inform the client that receiving test results is optional and the choice is entirely up to them.
  - Ask if they would like you to help them strategize how to tell their partner or family members about their test results.
- Tell the survivor it is important that he **monitors his health**:
  - These tests for Ebola virus pieces are very reliable, however it may be possible that virus could still be present in the body but not able to be found in body fluids.
  - There have been a very small number of survivors who became seriously ill after they recovered, and so we would like to ensure that you are well even after finishing the study.
  - If you feel unwell contact Dr Sesay or Dr Massaquoi, the medical doctors at the 34 Military Survivor Clinic.
- Talk with client about their **relationships** and their **sexual behavior, condom use, condom negotiation, abstinence**. Give client **condom demonstration** and **condoms**.
- **Offer** HIV test

##### Other Fluids: Rectal, Sweat, Tears, Urine, Saliva

- Greet the participant:
  - Remember to **express empathy** and happiness that they survived Ebola.
  - Ask how they are doing since they have recovered and if they have any questions.
- Discuss the **purpose** of the visit:
  - Give information to [the client] about the testing we will do to detect if pieces of the Ebola virus are in their fluids.

- Tell participants that at pre-test they do not need to do anything differently right now. If the test does detect pieces of Ebola in any bodily fluid, you will give her more information when you go over the test result with them.
- Talk about **confidentiality** and **possible discomfort**:
  - Let the participant know that anything they tell you will be confidential.
  - Let the client know that if they feel uncomfortable at any time, they can tell you and you will move on.
  - Inform the client that receiving test results is optional and the choice is entirely up to them.
  - Ask if they would like you to help them strategize how to tell their partner or family members about their test results.
- Tell the survivor it is important that she **monitor her health**:
  - Inform participants that even though the RT-PCR tests are reliable, it may be possible that virus could still be present in the body but not able to be found in body fluids.
  - There have been a small number of survivors who became seriously ill after they recovered, and so we may ask to follow up with the participant after the study ends to ensure they are well even after finishing the study.
  - Ask participants who feel unwell to call Dr. Sesay or Dr. Massaquoi for further help.
- Inform participant that condoms can help prevent against HIV, STIs and unwanted pregnancy. Give client **condom demonstration** and **condoms** and discuss **condom negotiation**.
- **Offer** HIV test
- **Refer** participants with medical or psychological problems to Dr. Sesay or Dr. Massaquoi.

## Delivery of Results

### Semen, Rectal, Sweat, Tears, Saliva, Urine

#### Positive:

- Explain the results:
  - Explain that the RT-PCR test **detected** pieces of the Ebola virus in the sample that they provided.
  - Explain that because of these results, it is possible that they may be able to pass Ebola to a person who has contact with their [FLUID] through activity like vaginal, anal, oral, or manual sex.
- Tell the survivor it is important that they **monitor their health**:
  - There have been a small number of survivors who became seriously ill after they recovered, and so we may ask to follow up with the participant after the study ends to ensure they are well even after finishing the study.
  - Ask participants who feel unwell to call Dr. Sesay or Dr. Massaquoi for further help.
- Encourage participant to **continue** with the study until they get two negative test results in a row.

#### Indeterminate:

- Explain the results:
  - Explain that the RT-PCR test **could not tell** if pieces of the Ebola virus are in the sample that she provided because it was on the border of detected and not detected.
  - Explain that because of these results, it is possible that they may be able to pass Ebola to a person who has contact with their [FLUID] through activity like vaginal, anal, oral, or manual sex.
- Tell the survivor it is important that they **monitor their health**:
  - Inform participants that even though the RT-PCR tests are reliable, it may be possible that virus could still be present in the body but not able to be found in body fluids.
  - There have been a small number of survivors who became seriously ill after they recovered, and so we may ask to follow up with the participant after the study ends to ensure they are well even after finishing the study.
  - Ask participants who feel unwell to call Dr. Sesay or Dr. Massaquoi for further help.
- Encourage participant to **continue** with the study until they get two negative test results in a row.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Negative:

- Explain the results:
  - Explain that the RT-PCR test **did not detect** pieces of the Ebola virus in the sample that they provided.
  - Explain that we would like to test them again to make sure pieces of Ebola is not detected in their fluids.
- Tell the survivor it is important that they **monitor their health**:
  - Inform participants that even though the RT-PCR tests are reliable, it may be possible that virus could still be present in the body but not able to be found in body fluids.

- There have been a small number of survivors who became seriously ill after they recovered, and so we propose to follow with the participant at 3 and 6 months after they had 2 consecutive negative tests, to ensure they are well even after finishing the study.
- Ask participants who feel unwell to call Dr. Sesay or Dr. Massaquoi for further help.
- Encourage participant to **continue** with the study until they get two negative test results in a row.

#### **Second Negative RT-PCR Test:**

- Inform participation is stopped for now, and the participant is welcome to the 3 and 6 months follow up visits.
- ~~Discharge participant from the study.~~

## Post-Test Counseling

### Semen, Rectal, Sweat, Tears, Saliva, Urine

#### Positive/Indeterminate/1<sup>st</sup> Negative:

- **Explain** results again, **ask** if participant has any questions.
- Explain to participants that there are basic good health habit he will need to follow to make sure the risk of transmitting Ebola through any positive fluid is as low as possible until they get two negative RT-PCR results in a row.
  - **Saliva:**
    - Avoid spitting in places that others could come into contact with saliva (on the street)
    - Do not share eating utensils with others without washing them with soap and water, and do not share food that you have been eating with others
    - Wipe your mouth with a clean tissue and throw that tissue in a lined dust bin and then wash your hands immediately with soap and water.
    - Wash your hands often with soap and water. Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
    - Do not share your toothbrush or other personal care items with others.
    - Avoid deep kissing or oral sex (mouth to genital contact).
    - Use a condom if you engage in manual, oral, vaginal, or anal sex or choose abstinence.
  - **Tears:**
    - Wash your hands often with soap and water.
    - Wipe your eyes with a clean tissue and throw that tissue in a lined dust bin and then wash your hands immediately with soap and water.
    - Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - **Semen:**
    - Use a condom if you engage in manual, oral, vaginal, or anal sex or choose abstinence.
  - **Urine:**
    - Do not urinate in places where others can come into contact with your urine (on the street, into sewers). Urinating in pit latrines or toilets is ok.
    - Wash your hands with soap and water each and every time you use the toilet.
    - Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
    - If urine comes in contact with eyes, nose, mouth, wash the areas very well with water.
    - If urine comes in contact with open skin (skin with cuts, wounds), rinse with water very well and clean with soap.
    - In the home, regularly clean toilet areas with water that has bleach in it.

- Use a condom if you engage in manual, oral, vaginal, or anal sex or choose abstinence.
  - **Sweat:**
    - Wash your hands often with soap and water.
    - Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
    - Do not share your personal care items with others
    - Do not share your unwashed clothing with others.
  - Wash personal clothing separately from items that belong to others
  - Avoid close skin to skin contact with other people
  - Use a condom if you engage in manual, oral, vaginal, or anal sex or choose abstinence.
- **Explain** to participants that he may be able to pass Ebola to a person who has contact with [fluid] through activity like vaginal, anal, oral, or manual sex until he gets two negative test results in a row.
- Tell the survivor it is important that he **monitors his health:**
  - Inform participants that even though the RT-PCR tests are reliable, it may be possible that virus could still be present in the body but not able to be found in body fluids.
  - There have been a small number of survivors who became seriously ill after they recovered, and so we propose to follow with the participant at 3 and 6 months after they had 2 consecutive negative tests, to ensure they are well even after finishing the study.
  - Ask participants who feel unwell to call Dr. Sesay or Dr. Massaquoi for further help.
- Talk with client about their **relationships** and their **sexual behavior, condom use, condom negotiation, abstinence.**
- Give client **condom demonstration** and **condoms.**
- **Refer** participants with medical or psychological problems to Dr. Sesay or Dr. Massaquoi.
- **Encourage** client to continue until they get two negative RT-PCR test results in a row.