

DIGHEL4350: Mandatory assignment

Formalities

- Deadline: Friday November 11 at 23:59.
- Submission: You hand in your response by sending it to Troels Mønsted on monsted@ifi.uio.no.
- Length: Maximum 3000 words including references.
- References: In your response, you must include (a) the two references included in the assignment, and (b) *at least* three references from the course syllabus. In addition, you are welcome – *but not required* - to include relevant references that you find through your own literature search.
- Conditions for approval: To get the response approved you must (a) respond to all questions in the assignment, (b) submit *at least* 1600 words of text, and (c) include the required references.

Introduction

Ebola is a severe viral infectious disease that through several outbreaks has imposed significant challenges for healthcare systems in Africa over the past decades and currently we are witnessing an outbreak in Uganda. The specific characteristics of Ebola disease makes it both very important and challenging to control the spread of the virus. In this assignment you are asked to write an essay where you characterize the Ebola, describe challenges for healthcare systems and discuss possible consequence for Norway.

Instructions:

1: Read the following two references:

- [Kieny & Dovlo \(2015\). Beyond Ebola: A new agenda for resilient health systems](#)
- [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: Ebola Outbreak in Uganda, as of 21 October 2022](#)

2: Characterize the disease

Based on the information in the two articles, the course syllabus and (optional) your own research answer the following questions:

- (a) What are the main characteristics of Ebola as a disease. In your description you are encouraged to include the biomedical characteristics as well as other factors, including social aspects of the disease.
- (b) What are the main challenges of treating Ebola disease and managing the spread of the virus in a society as seen from the perspective of healthcare systems.

3. Discuss implications for the Norwegian healthcare system

While Ebola outbreaks so far have been restricted to sub-Saharan Africa, the virus may spread to other parts of the world. As a consequence, it is important that western healthcare systems are prepared for such an event. Based on your understanding of Ebola discuss the following questions:

- (a) What precautionary measures do you recommend are taken in Norway to prevent Ebola from spreading to the country?
- (b) In the case of an Ebola case in Norwegian territory, how do you recommend this is handled by the healthcare system?