

Flight from Paris to Moscow Quarantined After Ebola Suspicion

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Moscow, Sheremetyevo International Airport, Photo: P. Turbanov

Passengers on a flight from Paris to Moscow waited nearly four hours before leaving the plane after a pilot reported one traveler having Ebola-like symptoms.

(Newswire.net -- January 20, 2015) -- Although

Ebola news has vanished from media and headlines, fear of its spreading still causes unpleasant situations for the airlines and passengers worldwide. On Monday, January 19, 2015, at Moscow's international airport, Sheremetyevo, an Aeroflot flight from Paris was quarantined after suspicions of a passenger carrying the deadly ebola virus.

"Several minutes before landing, we received an alert from the pilots about a passenger, and after being put in quarantine, she was looked at by doctors from several departments in accordance with a special protocol," Anna Zakharenkova, the Sheremetyevo press officer said to Russia Today by phone.

According to Russia's health watchdog Rospotrebnadzor medical examinations concluded the suspicious passenger was suffering from acute respiratory infection. The traveler and her husband, who were both transiting through Moscow, have been given a temporary visa to receive treatment at a Moscow specialized clinic.

The female passenger, however, "has shown no specific symptoms," Oleg Salagaev, Russia Health ministry representative said as cited by Russia's RIA Novosti. Nonetheless, she has been sent to the hospital with a 'viral infection' diagnosis and for a more in-depth examination. The Russian government claims the medics have been performing all necessary sanitary and epidemiological measures in connection with the incident. The Russian government also claims that while the passengers have been properly treated as the situation demanded, passengers had a bitter experience waiting on the plane four hours until they were permitted to disembark.

Passengers complained about being left in the dark about their risks and prospects, not knowing what was happening and being left to theorize on their own what was going on.

"There was never any evidence the female passenger was suffering from the deadly African virus," Russian carrier Aeroflot, said. According to RT, the Aeroflot press secretary Maksim Fetisov told RT that the airline understood, she had not visited any of the African ebola hotbeds in recent months.

Since the outbreak of the disease over a year ago, more than 40 people have been tested for Ebola in Russia. Not a single case has been confirmed, the head of Russia's public health watchdog, Anna Popova, told Interfax.

The World Health Organization announced on Monday that more than 8,500 people have died during the worst-ever epidemic of the West African virus. The latest Ebola breach filled world headlines as breaking news. Many predicted doomsday scenarios and feared that Ebola might become airborne. Oddly, Ebola vanished from the media faster than it appeared leaving a gap between what we need to know and what we really should know about this so-called 'perfect' virus.

Source: <http://newswire.net/newsroom/news/00087124-flight-from-paris-quarantined-in-moscow-after-ebola-suspicion.html>