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HUG
Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève

Press release

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The Cuban doctor treated at the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) has fully recovered and left Switzerland

Hospitalized at the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) since 21 November 2014, the patient suffering from Ebola virus disease has fully recovered after receiving the best care and treatments available and is released from hospital. He left Switzerland on 6 December to be reunited with his family. The Federal Office of Public Health welcomes the healing of this doctor involved in the fight against Ebola disease, and thanks the HUG medical and nursing staff for their commitment.

On 19 November, the Federal Office of Public Health and the Chief Medical Officer of Geneva Canton had responded positively to the request of the World Health Organization, based in Geneva, to welcome a Cuban doctor infected by the Ebola virus, who had to be evacuated from Sierra Leone. After his safe transfer from Geneva International Airport to the HUG, this patient was hospitalized for 16 days in a special room in an isolated area of the hospital. A staff team trained for that specific purpose then provided him with the best care and treatments available.

The latest analyses, carried out this week and twice confirmed, showed that he is cured and therefore in a position to leave the hospital. Upon his departure, the patient expressed his gratitude to all caregivers. The HUG would like to thank their staff, who have showed unwavering professionalism and commitment.

“At no time the Geneva population has been exposed to any risk of transmission of the disease”, underlines Prof. Jacques-André Romand, the Chief Medical Officer of the Canton of Geneva underlines. “The total recovery of the patient, confirmed by thorough laboratory tests, now allows him to leave the country and travel with no risk of contagion.”

This first case of treatment of a patient with Ebola virus disease in Switzerland demonstrates that the preparation of the national and cantonal authorities, and of the hospitals, has proven useful in providing support and treatment for a patient. Currently, there are no further requests for the transfer to Switzerland of any person infected or potentially infected by Ebola virus.

For more information

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