

Dutch doctor feared to have Ebola has malaria: official

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One of two Dutch doctors feared to have been infected with the killer Ebola virus in Sierra Leone has malaria, Dutch public health authorities said on Wednesday.

"She's being treated for [malaria](#)," Harald Wychgel, spokesman for the National Institute for Health and the Environment (RIVM), told AFP of Erdi Huizenga.

"We have carried out tests to see if she's also infected with Ebola. The results show that for the time being she does not have Ebola," said Wychgel.

Doctors Huizenga and Nick Zwinkels last week put themselves into voluntary quarantine for two weeks after they returned from Sierra Leone on September 14.

They had been working in a clinic their charity runs in the central town of Yele.

Reflecting jitters over the threat from the deadly disease, which has killed almost 3,000 people in west Africa this year, Swiss authorities reported another Ebola false alarm case Wednesday.

A young Guinean had arrived at an asylum centre in the western Swiss town of Vallorbe on September 17, and had told officials that he had left Guinea for France two days earlier. He said he'd lost a family member to

Ebola and began showing feverish symptoms.

However, "according to initial results, this is not a case of infection caused by the Ebola virus," the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health said in a statement.

The incubation period for the virus is between two and 21 days.

The two Dutch doctors showed no symptoms.

But Zwinkels and Huizenga came into contact with Ebola-infected patients in the Sierra Leone clinic, which mostly treats malaria cases, where one other staff member had died of the virus.

The RIVM said that another Dutchman who had recently travelled to infected zones and been hospitalised last week was also being treated for malaria.

"He has not been infected with Ebola," spokesman Wychgel said, after the [incubation period](#) passed.

Around 15 people have been tested for Ebola in the Netherlands in recent weeks, and all the tests have come back negative, the RIVM said.

Several Western health workers have been flown home after being contaminated and given experimental drugs to combat the disease. Most have recovered.

Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia are the hardest-hit countries.

Although no vaccine is commercially available, early treatment involving constant rehydration and medication to alleviate fever increases the chances of survival.

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