

Delegates to be screened for Ebola at first US-Africa summit - Barack Obama

WASHINGTON

US President Barack Obama said Friday that his country will screen African delegates for symptoms of Ebola at the first U.S.-Africa summit scheduled to take place in Washington next week.

The issue of Ebola "is something that we take very seriously," Obama said. "Folks who are coming from these countries that have even a marginal risk or an infinitesimal risk of having been exposed in some fashion, we're making sure we're doing screening."

Obama said this outbreak was more aggressive than in the past, thus the procedures that the US has put in place are "appropriate."

US media reported that the leaders of Liberia and Sierra Leone, two of the three countries affected, had canceled their trip to Washington.

On Thursday, the U.S. government issued a warning against nonessential travel to West African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, saying it reflects the "worsening" Ebola outbreak in this region.

According to the World Health Organization, the disease has killed 729 people and affected more than 1,300 this year.