



Interim Guidance for Local Health Jurisdictions Regarding Persons Returning to Washington Colleges from Countries Affected by the Ebola Virus Outbreak, June 17, 2015

Travelers including students and staff on campus may have recently been in countries affected by the current Ebola virus outbreak. These persons are not likely to be infected. However, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended monitoring of anybody who has been in affected countries during the prior 21 days, as well as postponing education-related travel to these countries.

CDC guidance for college and universities is posted at: [CDC-college-Ebola-WestAfrica](#). The Department of Health recommends that local health jurisdictions take the following steps to prepare for students or staff returning to Washington campuses who may be at risk for developing Ebola virus disease.

- 1) Contact your local colleges and universities to determine if they have any students or staff traveling from Guinea or Sierra Leone (as of 6/17/2015 – include other countries if Ebola cases are present).
- 2) If the college has students or staff traveling from any of the affected countries to the college, ask the college to conduct a telephone assessment of each person using the questionnaire on page 2 and then take the appropriate steps depending on the answers.
- 3) Based on consistent symptoms, the colleges and universities should immediately report a suspect Ebola case to the local health jurisdiction. Also pre-identify a local healthcare facility that has adequate systems and resources to safely evaluate a suspect Ebola case. Facilitate a healthcare evaluation for suspect cases. Ensure healthcare providers assessing suspect cases are using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and are isolating the patient. Providers should be trained in safe removal of PPE, with disposal of PPE as biohazard waste.
- 4) Determine with the local health jurisdiction how to monitor asymptomatic persons depending on their level of risk. Each person should have a daily temperature and symptom check, and should immediately report any fever, severe headache, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain. Make sure the person has a 24/7 contact number for the local health jurisdiction. The person may be told not to attend school or work, not to go into public places (e.g., shopping, movies), and not to travel by any public or commercial transportation (e.g., airplane, boat, bus, taxi, or train). The person should seek healthcare only at a designated facility, and contact that facility and say there was a possible exposure to Ebola. The person should be told that facility's name and 24/7 telephone number.
- 5) Develop a plan of action should a person on campus from an Ebola-affected country become ill. In general, a college with students from affected countries should:
 - a. Cooperate with local health jurisdiction monitoring of persons from affected countries.
 - b. Protect other staff and students from exposure to an ill person.
 - c. With the local health jurisdiction, identify a healthcare facility to evaluate an ill person.
 - d. If there is a student health service, confirm that staff is aware of the possibility of a symptomatic person presenting and confirm that appropriate personal protective equipment for Ebola is available to staff.

Local health jurisdiction numbers are available at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1200/LHJ%20Agency%20Directory.pdf>. The Department of Health Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology is available to local health jurisdictions with any questions about preparing for Ebola response or consulting on any patient evaluations: 206-418-5500 or 877-539-4344.

Other DOH guidance documents about Ebola are available at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/NotifiableConditions/EbolaResources>

Other CDC guidance documents about Ebola are available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/whats-new.html>

Evaluation for Ebola Virus Disease

Name: _____

Telephone number(s): _____ Email: _____

If the student/traveler is from an Ebola-affected country or may have had contact with an ill person from an affected country, ask the following BEFORE having direct contact with the person:

Yes No

- In the past 21 days did you travel from or have contact with an ill person from an affected area: Guinea or Sierra Leone (**Circle**) or other area with active Ebola cases: _____

If No, then no further action is needed. STOP EVALUATION for Ebola. If the person is ill, do routine diagnostics. If Yes for travel, ask about symptoms and specific exposures below.

Symptoms:

Yes No

- Do you have a fever at least > 38° C or 100.4° F (or feel like you have a fever)?
 Do you have severe headache, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pains, or unexplained abdominal pain?
 Do you have unexplained bleeding (including oozing at blood draw site, petechiae, or bruising)?

Specific Exposures: Did any of the following happen to you in the past 21 days?

Yes No

- Needle stick or body fluid splash on your face while caring for a possible Ebola case
 Exposed to skin or body fluids of a possible Ebola case without full protective clothing
 Did specimen landing on a possible Ebola case without full protective clothing
 Direct contact with any human remains
 Lived in a household and did direct care for a possible Ebola case
 Direct patient care in affected country while using full protective equipment
 Close contact with symptomatic case for prolonged period (in household, healthcare, or community)
 Brief contact or brief proximity with symptomatic case
 Direct patient care in area without widespread Ebola transmission while using full protective equipment
 Travel on aircraft or other contact with a symptomatic Ebola case. Describe: _____

A. If Yes to any of the symptoms AND Yes to any of the exposures:

*This is a suspect case and needs full evaluation. Ask the date of the last exposure: ____/____/____.
Contact the local health jurisdiction **immediately**.
Anyone providing healthcare to a suspect case should use full personal protective equipment.*

B. If Yes to any of the symptoms AND No to any of these specific exposures (but did travel):

Refer this person for evaluation at the designated healthcare facility. Notify the facility of the incoming patient's travel history and symptoms prior to arrival. Also contact the local health jurisdiction (see below).

C. If No to all symptoms AND Yes to any of these exposures:

*This is a risk exposure. The person should not travel on long-distance commercial conveyances.
Contact the local health jurisdiction to arrange monitoring (see below).*

D. If No to all symptoms AND No to all high or some/low risk exposures:

Report the person to the local health jurisdiction for help with monitoring (see below).

Providers or schools with questions should call the local health department. Local health jurisdiction numbers are available at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1200/LHJ%20Agency%20Directory.pdf>

Local health jurisdictions, or colleges unable to reach their local health jurisdiction, may consult with DOH CD Epi 206-418-5500 or 877-539-4344.