



Interim Guidance for Evaluating School-aged Children Returning to Washington from Countries with Ebola

Ebola Virus Disease

Ebola virus disease is a serious condition affecting parts of West Africa. Ebola symptoms are fever followed by severe headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and sometimes bleeding. Symptoms start 2-21 days after exposure. Over half of cases die from organ failure and shock. In West Africa there are many other infections that can cause a child to have fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or cramps including malaria or typhoid.

Travel Screening for Ebola

All airports servicing affected countries are screening passengers at departure for fever and exposures to Ebola. Passengers with fever or known exposure cannot travel. All passengers from affected countries are rescreened in the United States. Persons travelling from affected areas to Washington will be monitored. Anybody with a high risk exposure will be told to stay home. Parents will be strongly urged to keep all school-aged children home for 21 days and not to let them ride on a bus, train, or airplane.

Preparing a School or Child Care Setting

- Review your emergency preparedness plan.
- Know the local health jurisdiction's 24/7 telephone number.

Evaluating a Child

If a child **known to have arrived within 21 days** from an Ebola-affected country appears sick at school, the school should take the following steps:

- Ask the child to follow you from the classroom. Do not touch the child.
- Seat the child alone in a room with visibility (e.g., closed door with window or door slightly ajar). Somebody should maintain observation of the child for safety.
- Contact the parents and ask them to take their child to a healthcare provider. Make sure the healthcare provider is contacted before the child is taken there.
- Contact the local health jurisdiction to facilitate evaluation of the child by the designated healthcare provider. Give the local health jurisdiction contact information for the parents.
- If the child vomits or has diarrhea, close off the contaminated room and call the local health jurisdiction for information about cleaning and disinfection. Cleaning must be done with full proper personal protective equipment and proper disinfection (quaternary ammonia or fresh 1:10 bleach solution).