



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### *COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY*

*1610 NE 150<sup>th</sup> Street • Shoreline, Washington 98155*

Date: October 2014

To: Local Health Jurisdiction Communicable Disease Investigators

From: Dr. Scott Lindquist, Washington State Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease

Dear Local Health Investigator,

The person(s) named in this communication have been identified by US Customs and Border Patrol as having recently arrived in the United States from an Ebola affected area. Their final destination is believed to be in your local health jurisdiction.

We recommend that you perform the following activities to safeguard against transmission of Ebola in our state. Contact the named persons to:

1. Interview about their recent travel and potential exposures to persons who had illness symptoms, or who recently died of an illness, consistent with Ebola
  - a. See “[Interim Guidance for Local Health Jurisdictions Regarding Follow-up of Asymptomatic Persons with Any Exposure to the Ebola Virus](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-132-Ebola-LHJ-MonitoringGuide.pdf)” (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-132-Ebola-LHJ-MonitoringGuide.pdf>) for detailed instructions on how to determine whether someone has high, low or no risk exposure to Ebola.
  - b. Use “[Letter for Travelers Arriving from a Country with Ebola](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-136-EbolaLetterToTravelers.pdf)” (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-136-EbolaLetterToTravelers.pdf>) to educate them about how to self-monitor and whom to call and where to go for evaluation if symptoms develop.
2. Ask about current symptoms that may be consistent with Ebola—using the “[Ebola Contact Monitoring Form](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-127-CaseContactForm-Ebola.pdf)” questionnaire (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-127-CaseContactForm-Ebola.pdf>) included in this packet.
3. If asymptomatic, make plans for monitoring these persons for development of fever or other symptoms consistent with Ebola following the instructions in the “Interim Guidance” above (1.a.) and the contact tracing form in the “[Ebola Contact Monitoring Form](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-127-CaseContactForm-Ebola.pdf)” questionnaire (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-127-CaseContactForm-Ebola.pdf>) included in this packet.

4. Document monitoring on the contact tracing form included in this packet.
5. Reassure that Public Health WILL NOT ask about immigration status. Public Health WILL ensure that they will receive healthcare for Ebola symptoms regardless of ability to pay.

Please contact the Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology at 206-418-5500 if you have any questions about this information in this letter. Resources for public health and health care related to Ebola can be accessed at:

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