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To: Local Health Departments
From: New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service
Date: October 24, 2014
Subject: Active Post-Arrival Monitoring for Travelers from Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Impacted Countries

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, and their partners, have implemented enhanced entry screening for Ebola symptoms and risk factors in persons who have traveled from or through Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone at 5 US airports including Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) in Newark, NJ and John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) in New York City. The enhanced screening of passengers began at JFK on October 11 and EWR on October 16. As of October 27, all individuals traveling from one of these three countries will be required to be actively monitored for symptoms for 21 days. More detailed information on this process can be found on the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p1008-ebola-screening-FactSheet.html>

This message outlines the New Jersey state and local public health response protocol to New Jersey (NJ) residents and persons temporarily staying in NJ identified through enhanced screening at JFK and EWR as having **no symptoms** and **low (but not zero) exposure** to Ebola. Further information on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for assessment of risk can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>

New Jersey Department of Health, Communicable Disease Service

Recommendations for Follow-Up of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Low (but not zero) Exposure*

Reported from the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ)

*Low (but not zero) exposure is defined as having been in a country in which an EVD outbreak occurred in the past 21 days and having had no exposure.

Notifications:

1. The New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service (NJDOH CDS) staff will review DGMQ Ebola airport screening notifications posted on EpiX. For any persons living and/or staying in their jurisdiction, an Ebola report will be created in the secure, online Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS). The report will include contact information for the person and will appear as a "Report Under Investigation (RUI)" in the pending screen of the local health department (LHD) where the person resides or is staying. Please note that

reports in CDRSS (unless otherwise indicated) reflect a person monitoring for symptoms, NOT a report of acute infection.

Recommended LHD Response:

1. Make initial contact to the person within one (1) day of a report being created in CDRSS. To ensure timely notification of reports created in CDRSS, it is recommended that LHDs set up an email notification in CDRSS for Ebola reports appearing in their jurisdiction. This can be done by selecting “Email Notification” under the “Personalize” tab from the list of options on the left side of the screen.
 - a. Make a minimum of three (3) phone attempts to reach the person. If the person cannot be reached by phone or email, the LHD should contact the NJDOH CDS and ask to speak with the regional epidemiologist for more guidance.
 - b. Once initial contact has been made, LHD will change “Report Status” in CDRSS to “LHD Open” to serve as confirmation that verbal contact has been made and instructions have been provided.

2. The LHD should conduct the following:
 - a. Re-evaluate potential exposure by conducting a risk assessment. While persons are given this risk assessment during enhanced airport screening, additional evaluation by the LHD is recommended. The risk assessment tool can be accessed in CDRSS by:
 - i. Opening a report of Ebola and clicking on the “Epidemiology” tab
 - ii. Under the “Outbreak/Investigation Information” section (just before “Risk Factors”) there will be the following: Associated Questionnaire: EVD RISK MONITORING
 - iii. Click on **ADD/MODIFY QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE** to access the survey
 - b. If the person answers “no” to all questions, they are considered to be low (but not zero) exposure and the LHD should proceed with the below instructions (letters c-g). If the person answers “yes” to an exposure, the LHD should contact the NJDOH CDS and ask to speak with the regional epidemiologist for more guidance.
 - c. **Traveler Responsibility:**
 - i. Give the person instructions to self-monitor for symptoms for 21 days following date of arrival into the US (final date of obligation to report will be noted in the “Comments” section of CDRSS). Self-monitoring must include twice daily fever checks (morning and night) and monitoring for symptoms such as severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain and unexplained bleeding or bruising. Instruct the individual to utilize the thermometer and temperature log provided during airport screening to conduct and record temperature monitoring.

- d. **LHD Responsibility:**
 - i. LHD will provide a contact number for the person to report both daily temperature readings. This phone call to the LHD should occur once daily for 21 days (or until end date noted in “Comments” section of CDRSS).
 - ii. **LHD will provide a 24/7 contact number** to the person being monitored, should symptoms or questions arise.
 - iii. Temperature reports will be entered into CDRSS by LHD staff under the “Signs/Symptoms” tab. For each temperature reading a separate symptom of “Fever” will be added. The temperature will be recorded in the “Attribute” field and the date and time of report will be entered into the top “Onset/Resolution Date” field.
 - iv. Individuals being monitored will need to consult with the LHD if there is any planned travel out of the area for an extended period of time.
 - e. If symptoms arise or a recorded temperature of $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38°C) is noted; individuals should immediately isolate themselves (from people and pets), contact the LHD and seek medical evaluation at a nearby hospital. The LHD should provide the name and location of hospital(s) near the person’s home or work.
 - f. If symptomatic, the person should travel to the hospital via ambulance by calling 9-1-1.
 - g. The hospital and / or 9-1-1 dispatcher should be immediately alerted to symptoms and recent travel to an Ebola-affected area.
3. After initial notification has been made, the LHD will monitor daily as outlined above for 21 days (final date of obligation to report will be noted in the “Comments” section of CDRSS). Please consult with NJDOH CDS as needed and for the following:
 - a. If the individual is noncompliant there may be a need for more rigorous monitoring.
 - b. If the individual is planning to relocate for the remainder of the active monitoring period, there may be need to coordinate with another jurisdiction.
 - c. If the individual does develop symptoms, the LHD should **IMMEDIATELY** contact NJDOH CDS at 609-826-5964 during regular business hours and 609-392-2020 after hours, weekends and holidays.
 - d. If the person shows no symptoms after 21 days, the LHD should close the report in CDRSS by assigning a case status of “Not a Case” and a report status of “LHD Closed.”