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**Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**  
**Interim Guidance for K-12 Schools**  
**for Students Arriving From Ebola-Affected Countries**

**November 25, 2014**

Many K-12 schools within New Jersey are concerned as to how the current outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa will impact their communities and wish to take appropriate steps to mitigate any risk.

This document specifically addresses the needs of schools in which students may be arriving on campus after travel from areas of West Africa currently experiencing an outbreak of Ebola.

**Background on Ebola virus disease**

- There is an Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Widespread transmission of Ebola has been reported from specific areas (called EVD-affected countries). The list of EVD-affected countries may change as areas previously impacted by the virus are declared "Ebola free," and countries with newly reported outbreaks are added. An updated list of these areas can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html>.
- The chances of getting Ebola are extremely low unless a person traveled to an affected area and had direct contact with the blood or body fluids (e.g., vomit, diarrhea) of an Ebola-infected person, or with objects soiled with that person's blood or body fluids.
- Fever in people who traveled to EVD-affected countries is most likely due to more common infectious diseases in West Africa (e.g. malaria), but should still be checked by a doctor at a hospital. Early Ebola symptoms can include fever, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pain.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol are evaluating travelers for potential Ebola exposure risk and symptoms upon entry to the U.S. at the five U.S. airports where travelers would be arriving, including Newark Liberty International Airport and JFK International Airport.

- If a student traveled to a non EVD-affected country, they are **NOT** at risk for Ebola and require no follow-up.
- If a student traveled to an EVD-affected country and arrived in the U.S. more than 3 weeks ago (i.e., 21 days), they are also **NOT** at risk for Ebola and require no follow-up.

**Recommendations for Students with Travel from EVD-Affected Countries Less than Three Weeks Ago**

- As of October 16, all persons arriving in the U.S. from an EVD-affected country are being actively monitored by their local health department for 21 days.
- Healthy students without symptoms may attend school and continue all other usual activity at this time.
- Active monitoring is no longer necessary after students have been in the U.S. for 21 days.
- If a student who traveled from an EVD-affected country develops Ebola-like symptoms at the school during their 21 day monitoring period, the student should be taken to the school nurse or designated staff member. The student should be placed in a private room and the principal or designee should call the parents immediately.
- Parents should be told to go to the school and that an immediate medical evaluation of the student at a nearby hospital is needed. The principal or designee shall call 911 to arrange transportation of the student, and shall inform the emergency medical services (EMS) and hospital personnel about the student's reported symptoms and travel history to an Ebola-affected area before arrival.
- School nurses should follow standard (universal) precautions.
- If school staff determines that immediate medical care is needed, and that waiting for the student's parent to arrive is not appropriate, the principal or designee shall call 911. The principal or designee should inform the EMS dispatcher of the student's reported symptoms and travel history to an Ebola-affected area before EMS arrives. Designated school staff shall remain with the student until his/her parent arrives at the hospital.

For more information regarding Ebola virus disease and the current outbreak, see:

NJ Department of Health: <http://nj.gov/health/cd/vhf/index.shtml>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>