



To: Georgia Educators  
Subject: Ebola Virus Disease Update (K–12)  
Date: October 24, 2014

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The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is providing the following update to initial guidance dated October 6, 2014. As information evolves, it is necessary to provide updated guidance and recommendations to the educational community. During the next several months, we anticipate an increase in travel among students, faculty and their families.

Public Health is requesting your help in making the public aware that any person(s) who travels to the Ebola-affected African countries, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea will be considered “at-risk” and monitored by the Department of Public Health (DPH) for 21 days upon their return.

Public Health is asking you to be diligent in carrying out the following recommendations for reporting at-risk individuals from your institution. It is important to also inform students, faculty, their families, other staff and visitors of those who might be traveling to and from the Ebola-affected African countries, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea regarding the expectations upon their return to the United States. Please note that Nigeria and Senegal are not on the list of affected countries at this time.

We will continue to keep you abreast of evolving directives from the CDC including those found in the CDC website, the link to which follows: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

#### Should a School Become Aware That Travel Has Already Occurred

- (1) If an individual has traveled to an Ebola-affected country and is not presenting any of the symptoms listed below, it is required that they be monitored for symptoms and temperature daily for 21 days after their return to Georgia. This monitoring will be conducted by DPH or your local county health department. Each local school district has the flexibility to decide whether or not to allow a child that is showing no symptoms to return to school during the monitoring period.
- (2) Know the following signs and symptoms of Ebola, which may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola.
  - Fever
  - Severe headache
  - Muscle pain
  - Weakness
  - Diarrhea

- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Unexplained, unusual bleeding or bruising
- Loss of appetite

If someone presents to your school nurse or other school official with any of the symptoms listed above (with or without fever) and they have a travel history to one of the countries affected with Ebola, immediately separate the individual from contact with others and report it to the Georgia Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH. These contact numbers should also be used to address any additional questions.

DPH strongly encourages each school to review its infection control policies and procedures with faculty and staff. In addition, DPH recommends reinforcement of healthy germ stopping habits with students. Please refer to the webpage below for infection prevention tips and flyers related to hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, and other tips to limit the spread of infection. <http://dph.georgia.gov/infection-prevention-tips-staying-healthy>

### **Recommendations for Informing Students, Faculty and Their Families**

#### Anticipated Travel

Any person(s) who travels to the Ebola-affected African countries, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea (Nigeria and Senegal are not on the list of affected countries at this time) may expect the following upon return to the United States:

- (1) Travelers will be considered “at-risk” and be screened at the airport for the following:
  - Fever
  - Severe headache
  - Muscle pain
  - Weakness
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Abdominal pain
  - Unexplained, unusual bleeding or bruising
  - Loss of appetite
- (2) Travelers will be monitored by DPH for 21 days in accordance with the Georgia Department of Public Health Protocol for Active Follow-Up and Monitoring of Persons at Risk for Ebola Virus Disease Because of Travel History or Exposure to Ebola Virus Disease.
- (3) Travelers will be provided with a Check and Report Ebola (CARE) Kit at the airport, which includes the following:
  - Digital thermometer

- Directions for your digital thermometer
- Ebola CARE Kit Health Advisory
- Symptom Card and Symptom Log
- List of State Health Department Telephone Numbers
- Instructions for Monitoring by DPH

The goal is to keep students, faculty and their families informed about how best to prevent the spread of Ebola. Hand washing is still the best, most effective method to protect from the spread of this infectious disease. Please refer to the webpages above for current information related to the Ebola outbreak and for infection prevention tips and flyers related to hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, and other tips to limit the spread of infection.