



Michael R. Pence  
Governor

Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH  
State Health Commissioner

October 29, 2014

To College and University Administrators:

The first cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) diagnosed in the United States have heightened awareness of our global community and this serious disease. It also raised the level of concern for the safety of travelers both to the affected countries, and those returning to Indiana from an affected country, and the safety of the academic community.

The Ebola virus is not spread through the air, by water or food, or by casual contact. People with Ebola can only spread the Ebola virus when they have symptoms. There is no known risk of transmission if someone does not have symptoms. Ebola is only spread through direct contact with blood or body fluids (including but not limited to urine, saliva, feces, vomit and semen, or a needlestick) of a person who is sick with Ebola or the body of a person who has died from Ebola.

Currently in the U.S., individuals at risk for developing EVD are those who have arrived in the U.S. from Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone within the past 21 days (the maximum incubation period for Ebola virus). Previous travel to these countries outside the 21-day incubation period is not a risk factor for Ebola.

Individuals who have had direct contact with identified Ebola cases in the U.S. may also be at risk for the EVD if that contact occurred at the time the case was symptomatic. Ebola symptoms include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle or body aches, and fatigue. The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) website has more information about EVD at [www.statehealth.in.gov](http://www.statehealth.in.gov).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has prepared a document specifically addressing the unique concerns of colleges, universities, and students around the EVD occurring in the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. You can find that information at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/advice-for-colleges-universities-and-students-about-ebola-in-west-africa>.

The CDC has issued a Level 3 Warning travel advisory, urging all U.S. residents to avoid non-essential travel to Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone because of unprecedented outbreaks of Ebola in these countries. In addition, the CDC is screening all passengers departing from airports in Liberia, Guinea, or Sierra Leone for contacts with persons diagnosed with Ebola and symptoms of Ebola. Exit screening involves travelers responding to a traveler health questionnaire, being visually assessed for potential illness, and having their body temperature measured before they board the flight. Passengers with a positive screen are not permitted to board flights.

To augment the screening process, the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine began screening passengers from Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone arriving at five U.S. ports of entry on October 11, 2014. Beginning this weekend, all passengers traveling from these countries will be routed through the five airports where screening has been established. Passengers will complete a health assessment form, provide destination and contact information, and have their temperature checked. Anyone with risk factors for Ebola will be further evaluated on site at the airport by a CDC medical officer. Arriving passengers with symptoms will be



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transported to a designated hospital for medical evaluation in the arrival city. Those with risk factors will be restricted from traveling on commercial conveyances (air, bus, train, taxi/limousine) until the 21-day incubation period has passed.

Travelers at low risk will be allowed to proceed to their destinations, with notification provided to the state health department. The ISDH has already begun receiving notification about any traveler with Indiana as a destination and has an established system, with local public health officials, for monitoring these travelers for fever and other symptoms, so they can be immediately hospitalized should they develop symptoms of Ebola. All passengers arriving from the Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, regardless of their exposure level, will be monitored by ISDH and local health departments twice daily for 21 days. This includes, checking temperature and symptoms.

To read more about enhanced screening of travelers from Liberian, Guinea, and Sierra Leone at airports in the U.S., please visit the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p1008-ebola-screening.html>. CDC has strongly recommended that people avoid non-essential travel to Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone at this time. CDC advises that education-related travel to these countries be postponed until further notice. If you have students, faculty, or staff from Liberia, Guinea, or Sierra Leone on campus who are planning to return to one of these countries over winter break, they should expect to be monitored for symptoms of Ebola twice daily by the local health department for 21 days upon their return. They should also understand that, depending on their risk for developing Ebola, there may be movement restrictions placed on them during that 21 day monitoring period.

The Ebola situation in West Africa and the U.S. is changing rapidly. Please advise your students, faculty or staff intending to travel to Liberia, Guinea, or Sierra Leone to monitor the travel situation carefully as it is subject to change.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the CDC website at [www.CDC.gov/ebola](http://www.CDC.gov/ebola), or the ISDH website at [www.statehealth.in.gov](http://www.statehealth.in.gov).

If you have additional questions, please feel free to call the ISDH Ebola Call Center at 1-877-826-0011. The call center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sincerely,



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