

# School Health Guidance

## Key Questions About Ebola Answered for School Health Providers

### Background:

- Ebola outbreaks are occurring in four West African locations: Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website ([www.cdc.gov/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/ebola)) for the most up-to-date information since affected areas may change.
- 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., saliva, urine) of an Ebola-infected person or animal, or with objects contaminated with that person or animal's blood or body fluids.
- People returning from the affected areas who do not have symptoms are not infectious. There should be no restrictions on their school attendance or normal activities.
- Fever in people who traveled to the affected areas is most likely due to more common infectious diseases in West Africa (e.g. malaria), but should still be checked by a doctor.

### When should Ebola precautions be followed with an ill staff member or student?

A staff member or student who becomes ill at school should not be considered "at risk" if they;

- a. have not traveled to Ebola affected areas in the past 21 days,
- b. do not have a family member/close contact with recent travel to an Ebola affected area,
- c. do not have a fever with vomiting, diarrhea, or other symptoms.

### What should happen if a student becomes ill at school with symptoms?

If a child shows up in a school nurse setting with fever and one of the associated symptoms, a complete travel history should be taken from a parent or guardian. An accurate travel history is critical in making an accurate judgment. Without a positive history of travel or contact with a positive case, there is no risk for Ebola. The school should call Pima County Health Department immediately at 520-724-7797 if the child is exhibiting these symptoms and has a positive travel history.

If a student gets a fever within 21 days of returning from West Africa, he or she should consult a health-care provider **right away**. The staff member (or parent, if a student has a fever) should tell the provider about the symptoms and recent travel **before** going to the office or emergency room to decrease the chance of getting others sick.

### What if someone has traveled to affected areas but has not been sick?

There should be no restrictions or special considerations made for persons returning from an Ebola-affected area or with history of being within an affected region if they are healthy 21 days after returning.

### What if a staff member or student traveled to West Africa but got sick more than 21 days after leaving?

Students or staff who get sick more than 21 days after returning from an Ebola-affected area **do not** need to be checked for Ebola and are not at risk for Ebola.

### Where can I get more information about Ebola in the U.S.?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Ebola webpage is constantly being updated with new information as it becomes available. Follow the link or type in <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

