



# Guidance for Organizations & Institutions: Receiving Students or Staff from Areas Affected by Ebola

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## Background:

- Ebola outbreaks are occurring in three West African countries: 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.

## Recommendations for Students and Staff:

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) recommends that all healthy people who arrive in the United States from an Ebola-affected area should check for fever and symptoms of Ebola twice daily for 21-days, starting the day after leaving the affected area. As part of this monitoring, county health department staff will conduct in-persons visits of persons who have traveled from the Ebola-impacted countries each day. If the person did not have contact with Ebola-infected persons they may continue their usual activities during this time. If they remain healthy during the 21 days, they are **not** at risk for Ebola.

- If a student or staff member 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.
  - A staff member who recently traveled to an affected area and develops a fever during the school day should leave the workplace, call his or her doctor **right away** for advice and should mention the recent travel.
  - If a student who recently traveled to an affected area becomes ill while at an organization or institution, he or she should be seen by the on-site nurse. If there is no nurse, the student should stay in a private room until parent pick-up, and the parent should be told to seek **immediate** medical advice and to tell a healthcare provider about the recent travel history **before** going to the doctor's office or emergency room.
  - School administration should immediately report the incident to the county health department.

- 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.

**More Information on Ebola:**

- For more information about Ebola, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/ebola> or go to [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola)
- For more information about the CDC's travel recommendations, visit [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

*Florida Department of Health guidance meets or surpasses recommendations provided by CDC and would take precedence in Florida.*