



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Division of Public Health

March 3, 2021

To: Local Health Directors, Health Care Providers, Emergency Medical Services

From: Jean-Marie Maillard, MD, MSc, Medical Director, Communicable Disease Branch

Re: Ebola Virus Disease in Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has mandated that, starting Thursday, March 4, 2021, airlines and other aircraft operators will be required to collect and transmit contact information to the CDC for appropriate public health follow-up and intervention for all passengers boarding a flight to the United States who were in any portion of the DRC or the Republic of Guinea within the 21 days before their arrival in the United States. The U.S. government will also begin to redirect air passengers from DRC and Guinea to six U.S. airports where over 96% of air passengers from these countries already arrive. The six airports include New York (JFK), Chicago (ORD), Atlanta (ATL), Washington D.C. (IAD), Newark (EWR), and Los Angeles (LAX).

These actions are due to two concurrent outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Guinea. <https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/ebola/en/>

1. On 7 February 2021, the Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) after the laboratory confirmation of one case.
2. On 14 February 2021, the Ministry of Health of Guinea informed WHO of a cluster of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) cases between 18 January and 13 February 2021.

At the time of issuance of this memo, the CDC has not requested that state and local health departments perform additional risk assessment or active monitoring of travelers from affected countries. CDB will provide updated memos if guidance from CDC changes.

At this time the CDC is advising collaborative actions for healthcare facilities, EMS, healthcare providers, and local health departments:

1. Triage of Patients. In addition to screening patients for COVID, ask about and document international travel histories, and post contact information for infection prevention and local health department staff.
2. Reinforce infection prevention recommendations for health care facilities.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/index.html> If a facility cannot meet these recommendations please contact your local health department or emergency management office.
3. Healthcare facilities and public health officials should be familiar with the tiered [U.S. Regional Treatment Network](#) for Ebola and other special pathogens.
4. Review and prepare to update policies, procedures and standing orders related to EVD management and referral.

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Additionally, the CDB recommends at this time that local health departments:

- Contact the CDB epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419 if notified of illness in a person with travel to the DRC or Guinea since February 7.
- Review and update 24/7 contact lists both internal and external.
- Review current or develop a protocol for use if a symptomatic person with recent travel to an area with active transmission is identified, including a description of the plans for transport and medical evaluation, and
- Review current or develop a protocol for case management of persons who are restricted to their homes or another physical location.
- Refamiliarize yourself with existing resources at https://epi.ncpublichealth.com/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/reportable_diseases.html

SYMPTOMS OF EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Symptoms of Ebola may include fever, severe headache, joint or muscle pain, fatigue or weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained bleeding. **If any of these symptoms are noted in a person with recent travel to DRC or Guinea, please call the CDB epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419 for consultation.**