



Summary of Guidance for 21-day County Health Department Monitoring of Travelers from Countries Currently Experiencing an Outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease

FloridaHealth.gov • Florida Department of Health

Version 2.7 (December 9, 2015)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security's Customs & Border Protection (CBP) is currently performing entry screening at five U.S. airports that receive all travelers from the Ebola-affected nations of Guinea and Sierra Leone. The CDC will distribute contact information for these screened passengers to the state they are residing in via *Epi-X*.

Please note that as of September 21, 2015 CDC and CBP have decided to cease conducting port-of-entry screening and issuing state notifications for persons entering the United States from Liberia. As a result, Florida Department of Health will no longer be receiving notifications for Liberian travelers unless they have been in Guinea or Sierra Leone within the 21 days preceding their arrival in the U.S. Monitoring of travelers from the latter two countries will continue as before.

Upon receiving the notification, the Florida Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Epidemiology, will immediately distribute passenger lists to the county health departments of residence for monitoring as described below.

County Health Department (CHD) Actions Following Airport Screening Notifications

- CHDs should implement a sustainable, long-term system to track these individuals as this surveillance program is expected to last at least several months. Surge capacity may be needed for counties with multiple travelers or who have staffing limitations.
- Make contact with the person(s) on the list and conduct a phone (low-risk travelers) or in-person (high-risk travelers) assessment within 12 hours of notification, as appropriate.
- While persons will have been assessed for risk exposure by CDC on arrival in the U.S., a second risk assessment should be conducted by CHDs using the DOH EVD risk assessment algorithm. The traveler should be provided a number to contact appropriate CHD staff 24/7. Follow the guidance as described below for high and low risk travelers.

Components of Monitoring

Traveler follow-up consists of twice daily temperature checks and assessment of any illness symptoms, with verification of health status and compliance by the county health officials. The traveler should immediately report by phone to the CHD any fever or other symptoms for a period of 21 days after departure from an EVD outbreak country.

All **high risk travelers** will be advised to voluntarily quarantine themselves for the duration of the monitoring period. Non-compliance with voluntary quarantine will result in involuntary quarantine by the County Health Officer. Monitoring of high-risk travelers will be performed twice daily in-person.

For **all travelers** from an impacted country, monitoring includes twice daily evaluation by phone (low-risk travelers) or in-person (high-risk travelers) by a CHD official.

1. A CHD official will contact the traveler to complete the Traveler Monitoring Information Form, conduct a EVD risk assessment, and establish a procedure for twice daily (every 10-14 hours) monitoring.
2. The CHD official will call the traveler to determine whether there has been any symptom onset, and if none, will continue monitoring until completion of 21-day monitoring period or departure from the state.
3. The individual should receive training in how to properly take their temperature.
4. Twice daily, a CHD official will obtain the traveler's temperature and the CHD official will record the time, temperature and presence or absence of all symptoms on the Daily Symptom and Temperature Log.
5. Once a day, before 5:00PM, the CHD official will enter the information from the Daily Symptom and Temperature Log into the Merlin outbreak module #1860.
6. If the person reports at least one symptom (including fever), or if overt signs of illness are observed, the CHD official or designee will immediately notify the CHD Health Officer or if unable to reach the CHD Health Officer, notify the Bureau of Epidemiology.
7. If a traveler has not been in contact for 4 hours or more after a designated contact time, additional efforts should be made to find and observe the person and the Bureau of Epidemiology should be notified.
8. The initiating CHD will monitoring traveler for the duration of the 21-day monitoring period spent in Florida. If the traveler develops signs or symptoms of illness while in another Florida county, the transfer county will be immediately notified and assist with traveler monitoring as appropriate.
9. These procedures will be followed for 21 days from the last day in the outbreak country.