



WESTERN RACINE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Guidance for Schools: Receiving Students or Staff from Areas Affected by Ebola

Background:

- There is an Ebola outbreak in West Africa. *Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola) for the latest affected areas.*
- 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., blood, vomit, diarrhea) of an Ebola-infected person, or with objects soiled with that person's blood or body fluids.
- 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.
- Early Ebola symptoms can include fever, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pain.

Public Health Role: The local health departments continue to closely follow the 2014 Ebola outbreak currently affecting the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, as well as cases within the United States. All travelers who have been to the affected countries within the past 21 days are asked to contact their local health department.

Central Racine County Health Department (262) 898-4499
City of Racine Health Department (262) 636-9201
Western Racine County Health Department (262) 763-4930

Recommendations for Students and Staff: The CDC recommends that **all healthy people** who arrive in the United States from an Ebola-affected area **should check for fever daily for 21 days**, starting the day after leaving the affected area. They may continue their usual activities during this time. If they remain healthy during the 21 days, they are not at risk for Ebola. 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EBOLA:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebola.htm>