



Interim Guidance for Evaluating School-age Children Returning to Washington from Countries with Ebola

Ebola Virus Disease

Ebola virus disease is a serious condition affecting people in parts of West Africa. Symptoms are fever, severe headache, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and sometimes bleeding. Symptoms start within 21 days of being exposed. In West Africa there are many other infections that can cause a child to have fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain including malaria and typhoid fever.

Travel Screening for Ebola

All airports servicing affected countries are screening passengers before departure for fever and exposures. Passengers with fever or known exposure to Ebola cannot travel. U.S. Customs also screen international passengers on arrival. No non-stop flights arrive at SeaTac Airport from currently affected countries, so Customs screening would be done at other airports.

Persons travelling from affected countries should self-monitor for fever for 21 days from departure. They will be told this on arrival in the United States.

Evaluating a Child

Parents should be checking their children for fever and other symptoms before school. If a child known to have arrived **within 21 days** from an Ebola-affected country appears sick at school, the school should take the following steps:

- Ask the child to follow you from the classroom to the building office.
- Seat the child alone in a room with visibility (e.g., door has a window or door left slightly ajar). Somebody should maintain observation of the child for safety.
- Contact the parents and ask them to take their child to a healthcare provider. Make sure the healthcare provider is contacted before the child is taken there.
- Contact the local health jurisdiction to facilitate evaluation of the child by the designated healthcare provider. Give the local health jurisdiction contact information for the parents.
- If there is contamination with vomit or diarrhea, close off the contaminated room and call the local health jurisdiction for information about cleaning and disinfection.