



January 5, 2016

LAC DPH Health Update:
Guinea declared Ebola-free

*This message is intended for all health care providers.
Please distribute as appropriate.*

Key messages

- **The West African country Guinea has been declared Ebola-free**
- **Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases are no longer occurring in any of the formerly affected West African countries**
- **Travelers from Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia are no longer being monitored by LAC DPH and, if they become ill, do not need to be managed as having suspected EVD**
- **Collect a travel history from patients presenting with infectious disease symptoms and remain aware of current outbreaks overseas**

Situation

On December 29, the World Health Organization declared the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in Guinea over. As transmission of EVD in Liberia and Sierra Leone already has stopped, travelers from Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia no longer need to be evaluated and managed as having suspected EVD if they become ill. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) will no longer monitor travelers from these countries.

Providers should consider other travel-associated diseases, such as malaria, in the differential diagnosis when evaluating febrile patients returning from Guinea and other formerly EVD affected countries, and should implement infection control precautions as appropriate.

Importance of travel history and how to stay current on international disease outbreaks

International travelers may acquire an infectious condition that is common in the countries they have visited (e.g., malaria, gastroenteritis) or an infection that is associated with an emerging or outbreak-associated pathogen. LAC DPH continues to emphasize the critical importance of always obtaining a travel history from patients presenting with fever and/or other infectious disease symptoms to guide patient evaluation and management.

Current international disease outbreaks are listed by the [CDC](#) and by the [WHO](#). In addition, many [reportable diseases](#) are always or often travel-associated. Consider using [waiting room posters](#) for patients reminding them to report recent travel history.

Actions requested of providers

- ✓ Take a detailed travel history from patients presenting with fever and/or other infectious disease symptoms
- ✓ Call LAC DPH, as needed, for consultation on suspected travel-associated diseases, including those caused by emerging or outbreak-associated pathogens.

For consultation or to report a suspected travel-associated reportable disease

Los Angeles County DPH ACDC:

- Weekdays 8:00 am-5:00 pm call 213-240-7941
- Non-business hours (evenings, weekends and holidays) call 213-974-1234. Ask for the physician on call.

Long Beach Health and Human Services:

- Week days 8-5PM call 562-570-4302
- After hours call 562-435-6711 and ask for the Communicable Disease Control Officer.

Pasadena Public Health Department:

- 626-744-6043

Additional Resources

LAC DPH

- [Acute Communicable Disease Control webpage:](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/index.htm)
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/index.htm>
- [Reportable Diseases and Conditions:](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/reports/DiseaseList2015.pdf)
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/reports/DiseaseList2015.pdf>
- [Waiting room poster "Attention all Patients":](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/TravelPosterEng.pdf)
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/TravelPosterEng.pdf> (English)
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/TravelPosterSpan.pdf> (Spanish)

CDC

- [General Approach to a Returned Traveler:](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2014/chapter-5-post-travel-evaluation/general-approach-to-the-returned-traveler)
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2014/chapter-5-post-travel-evaluation/general-approach-to-the-returned-traveler>
- [Current outbreak list:](http://www.cdc.gov/outbreaks/) <http://www.cdc.gov/outbreaks/>

WHO

- Disease outbreak news: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>

This Health Update was sent by Dr. Laurene Mascola, Chief, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health