

To: Georgia Educators  
Subject: Ebola Virus Disease  
Date: October 6, 2014

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As you know, national and international health authorities are working to control a large, ongoing outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in several countries in West Africa, with the current epicenter in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. With significant numbers of students from West Africa in Georgia's universities and colleges, it is necessary to provide guidance and recommendations to the educational community and as the holiday season approaches, students and faculty will travel home and then back to campus. Public Health relies on the vigilance of a vast array of informed contributors beyond our traditional medical providers to report diseases, and therefore are asking the following of you:

- (1) Be aware of students and their families, faculty and staff members or visitors who have traveled to Ebola-affected West African countries, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea within the previous 21 days.
- (2) Know the signs and symptoms of Ebola, which may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola and include:
  - Fever greater than 101.5°F
  - Severe headache
  - Muscle pain
  - Weakness
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Abdominal pain
  - Unexplained, unusual bleeding or bruising
- (3) If someone presents to your campus health clinic with a fever, immediately ask if they have traveled to or come into contact with someone who has traveled to an Ebola affected region.
- (4) If you encounter individuals who you believe meet the case definition described in (1) and (2) or (3), immediately separate the individual from contact with others and report it to the Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH or the DPH Epidemiology section at 404-657-2588.



(5) Hand washing is still the best, most effective method at your disposal to protect you from the spread of infectious disease.

DPH strongly encourages each school to review its infection control policies and procedures with faculty and staff. In addition, DPH recommends reinforcement of healthy germ stopping habits with students. Please refer to the webpages below for current information related to the Ebola outbreak and for infection prevention tips and flyers related to hand hygiene, cough and sneeze etiquette, and other tips to limit the spread of infection.

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

<http://dph.georgia.gov/infection-prevention-tips-staying-healthy>

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Public Health at 1-866-PUB-HLTH or the Epidemiology section at 404-657-2588.