



January 7, 2016

TO: Hospitals, Healthcare Providers, and Local Health Departments (LHDs)

FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)
Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC)

HEALTH ADVISORY: UPDATE ON EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD)

Please distribute immediately to the Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Employee Health Service, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Laboratory Service, Pharmacy, and all patient care areas.

**REVISED WITH CORRECTED LINKS TO INTERNATIONAL TRAVELER
PATIENT EVALUATION POSTERS**

- Guinea was declared Ebola-free by the World Health Organization (WHO) on December 29, 2015.
- Travelers from Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia are no longer being monitored by NYSDOH or LHDs and no longer need to be evaluated and managed as having suspected EVD.
- Healthcare facilities and providers that routinely care for persons with acute communicable diseases should collect a travel history on all patients upon initial presentation.

SUMMARY

On December 29, 2015, the WHO formally declared that the EVD outbreak in Guinea has ended. Travelers from Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia will no longer be monitored by NYSDOH or LHDs and no longer need to be evaluated and managed as having suspected EVD.

Since travel history is an essential tool for rapidly identifying potential communicable diseases, including but not limited to MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and measles, healthcare facilities and providers that routinely care for persons with acute communicable diseases should inquire about recent travel in all patients upon initial presentation.

Signage asking patients to provide travel history should also continue to be prominently posted. Posters to remind patients to report recent travel history are available on the NYSDOH website in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Russian](#), [Korean](#), [Italian](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Polish](#), [Arabic](#), and [Chinese](#).

Both the WHO (www.wpro.who.int/outbreaks_emergencies/en/) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/outbreaks) maintain websites that list all current outbreaks. Any patient suspected of having a potential travel-related communicable disease should be immediately isolated in a single patient room with strict attention to infection control precautions.

After an initial medical evaluation and without delaying necessary care (e.g., stabilization of critical patient), providers should report suspect cases to the [LHD](#) where the patient resides. Providers who cannot reach their LHD can access 24/7/365 public health consultation from NYSDOH at 518.473.4439 during business hours and 866-881-2809 evenings, weekends and holidays.

If you have any questions, please contact your local health department or the NYSDOH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at bcdc@health.ny.gov.