



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
**COMMUNICABLE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DISEASES
AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**
4th FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

August 8, 2014

Dear Academic Colleagues:

As you well know, the new academic year is upon us and already students from across the globe are traveling to Tennessee college and university campuses. In light of the continuing concerns around newer mosquito-borne illnesses including Chikungunya and Dengue, the ongoing concerns regarding MERS-CoV (Middle Eastern Respiratory Virus) emanating from the Middle East, and the unprecedented Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak ongoing in the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria, I am writing to provide the information you need stay informed about this rapidly evolving situation and continue protecting the health of your students, staff, faculty and their families.

CDC considers the risk to the general population to be very low, though there is the possibility of a case of EVD arriving in other countries, including the United States. The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) requests your continued vigilance to identify, isolate, and manage ill travelers returning from countries where EVD transmission is ongoing.

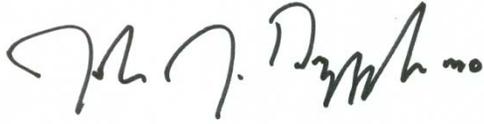
I have attached Condensed Triage Guidance designed to provide a simple step-by-step process for the initial evaluation of patients presenting with fever and a history of international travel. Please provide this letter and attached document to your student and employee health clinics. More facts on EVD can be found at these websites:

Tennessee Department of Health:	http://health.tn.gov/ceds/ebola.htm
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:	http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola
World Health Organization:	http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en

As always, for any questions, we encourage you to contact your local or regional health department partners. You may, of course, reach out to the Tennessee Department of Health CEDEP office at 615-741-7247 at any time. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss this or other emerging communicable disease threats, including MERS CoV and Chikungunya. It is important to us to do all we can to work with you to protect the health of your students, faculty and visitors as you advance your educational mission. Doing so is part of our

own mission at the Tennessee Department of Health to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Dreyzehner MD MPH". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "no" at the end.

John. J. Dreyzehner, MD MPH
Health Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Health

Condensed Triage Guidance Updated August 13, 2014
Heighten Awareness for Communicable Disease (Ebola and MERS/CoV) among Travelers Returning from Foreign Countries



Step 1—Initial Encounter: If a patient presents with fever AND recent (last 30 days) international travel or exposure to an ill international traveler, take immediate action.

Action: Place a facemask on patient (if tolerated) and move patient to isolation (negative pressure airborne infection isolation or closed room).

Step 2—Secondary Evaluation with Infection Control in Place: Restrict patient contact to essential personnel wearing gowns, gloves, eye protection, and an N-95 or higher respirator. Obtain 30-day travel history from the patient.

- If travel to Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone or Nigeria in last **21** days, or
- If travel to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Oman, Jordan, Kuwait, Yemen, Lebanon, Iran in last **14** days, take immediate action.

Action: Keep patient in isolation and contact your Infection Control Preventionist and Public Health; request an infectious disease consult if possible. Click here for [Tennessee Health Department Map](#). Or call 615-741-7247 anytime, 24 hours/7 days a week.

Step 3—Disease-Specific Risk Assessment with Infection Control in Place:

- If travel to Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone or Nigeria in last **21** days,

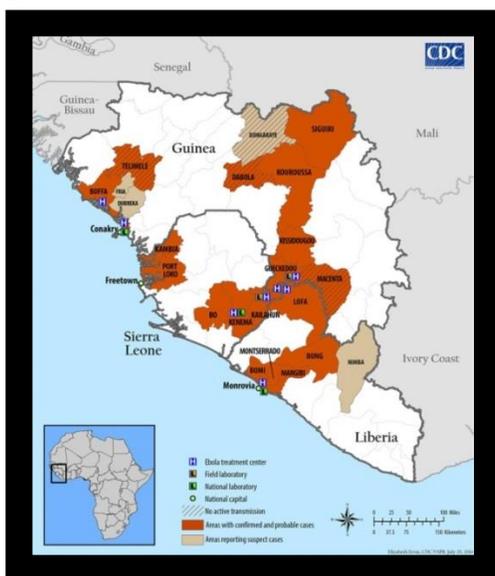
Action: Keep patient in isolation and screen for Ebola Virus Disease ([click here](#)). Hospital staff should wear gowns, gloves, eye protection, and an N-95 or higher respirator.

- If travel to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Oman, Jordan, Kuwait, Yemen, Lebanon, Iran in last **14** days,

Action: Keep patient in isolation and screen for MERS/Coronavirus Infection ([click here](#)). Hospital staff should wear gowns, gloves, eye protection, and an N-95 or higher respirator.

Ebola Virus Outbreak Countries

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/resources/distribution-map-guinea-outbreak.html>



MERS/CoV Outbreak Countries

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-saudi-arabia-qatar>

