

# Ebola Risk Assessment for School Nurses

January 8, 2014



## First, some quick facts about Africa

- Africa is the world's second largest continent with a population of 1.1 billion (1,100,000,000) people.
- There are 54 distinct countries in Africa.
- Common infectious diseases in some parts of Africa include malaria, typhoid fever, chikungunya, dengue, schistosomiasis ...

## Second, some facts about the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa

- There is currently a major Ebola outbreak underway in: Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- All airline travelers leaving Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia are screened for fever and symptoms before they leave. All travelers arriving in the US from those countries are also screened for fever and symptoms upon entry. All returned travelers are monitored daily by their employer (selected healthcare and public health workers) or their local health department for 21 days after return.

## Third, some facts on Ebola, the disease

- Ebola is not transmitted before the patient has symptoms.
- Early symptoms of Ebola include fever, muscle aches, severe headache, abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea. After several days of illness the patient may develop a rash and worsening symptoms.
- In Africa, Ebola is introduced into human populations from an animal source (fruit bat or non-human primate) and then spreads from one person to another.
- Ebola is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or splashing into the eyes, nose, or mouth) with body fluids (including but not limited to urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, and semen) of an infected patient.

## Ebola risk assessment for school nurses

- If a child, parent or teacher **HAS NOT** traveled to Guinea, Sierra Leone or Liberia within the last 21 days, there is no risk of Ebola related to the current outbreak in West Africa.
- If a child, parent or teacher **HAS** traveled to Guinea, Sierra Leone or Liberia within the last 21 days, discreetly discuss with your local health department or DIDE at (800)-423-1271, extension 1.
- Children, parents or teachers who become ill at school should be sent home.
- This situation is expected to change rapidly. Please make sure you are operating from current guidance.

## More facts

- Africa: <http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/10/31/getting-to-know-africa-50-facts/>
- CDC information on Ebola: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>
- CDC information for children on Ebola: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/children/index.html>
- CDC infographics on transmission of Ebola: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/facts-about-ebola.pdf> OR <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/infographic.pdf>
- CDC information on travel and Ebola: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/ebola>
- For kids: [http://kidshealth.org/kid/health\\_problems/infection/ebola.html](http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/infection/ebola.html)
- For kids: <http://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/infections/Pages/Ebola.aspx>

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