



BURLINGTON COUNTY
NJLINC'S-HAN



Public Health

New Jersey Local Information Network Communications System Health Alert Network
Surveillance • Reporting • Communications • Response

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(BCHD14-341) Burlington County Health Department Info - Interim Guidance for Schools on Ebola

Please see the attached Burlington County Health Department Interim Guidance for Schools on Ebola.

For more information on Ebola, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/ebola.

You may also contact the Burlington County Health Department at (609) 265-5533 or visit our website at www.co.burlington.nj.us/health for information on Ebola, flu vaccine clinics, and other health topics.



One (1) file attached: Interim EVD Guidance to BC Schools.pdf

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Yours in education,



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Burlington County Health Department

October 24, 2014

Burlington County Health Department – Interim Guidance for Schools on Ebola

The Burlington County Health Department recognizes the concerns schools may have regarding the current outbreak of Ebola in the three West African countries of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. The New Jersey Department of Health is currently developing guidelines for schools. In the interim, the Burlington County Health Department is providing the following information to schools that may have staff and students returning from one of the three aforementioned countries, and who have “no known exposure” to the Ebola virus.

While Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a potentially deadly disease, there are a limited number of ways in which it is transmitted. Ebola is only spread by the direct contact with the bodily fluids of a person showing the signs and symptoms of Ebola or through exposure to objects (such as needles) that have been contaminated with the blood or other body fluids of a person infected with EVD. Ebola is not transmitted in the air or through the food or water supply. The maximum amount of time between a person’s exposure to EVD and the onset of symptoms is 21 days. A person who was exposed to EVD or traveled to an EVD affected area and did not develop symptoms of EVD within 3 weeks does not have EVD.

While individuals with EVD may develop a variety of symptoms, fever is nearly universally present in all infected persons. Common symptoms, none of which indicate a person definitely has EVD, may include:

1. Fever, Headache, Joint and muscle aches, Weakness, Diarrhea, Vomiting, Stomach pain, and Lack of appetite
2. Some people may also have: Rash, Red eyes, Hiccups, Cough, Sore throat, Chest pain, Difficulty breathing, Difficulty swallowing, Bleeding inside and outside the body

The Burlington County Health Department urges that schools follow the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). On August 11, 2014, NJDOH issued guidance to academic institutions regarding students arriving from EVD-affected areas, found here: http://nj.gov/health/cd/vhf/documents/ebola_recommendations_universities.pdf. For staff and students who arrive at school within 21 days of having traveled from an EVD-affected area, and who currently have none of the symptoms listed above, the Burlington County Health Department supports the following recommendations made by NJDOH:

1. There is no need to quarantine staff and students who have traveled from EVD-affected areas from others when there is “no known exposure” to the virus.
2. Staff and students should monitor their health closely for 21 days from the date when they were last physically in an affected country. If they do not have a thermometer to check for fever if needed, one should be provided.
3. Staff and students should be advised of symptoms that could suggest EVD.
4. Individuals who are or become sick should contact their primary care provider.

School officials who may have questions or concerns about Ebola, or on staff and students returning from one of the three affected countries should speak with the Burlington County Health Department. It remains important for everyone to practice good hand and respiratory hygiene!

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds.
2. Cover your coughs and sneezes using the crease of your elbow.
3. Stay home when you are sick.
4. Get a seasonal flu shot.

For more information on Ebola, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/ebola. You may also contact the Burlington County Health Department at 609-265-5533 or www.co.burlington.nj.us/health for information on Ebola, flu vaccine clinics, and other health topics. If you are sick, contact your primary care provider.