



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

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August 22, 2014

To: North Carolina Local Health Directors and Communicable Disease Nurses
From: Megan Davies, MD, State Epidemiologist
Re: **Ebola – College and University Preparedness**

This memo is intended to encourage local health departments to work with colleges and universities in their jurisdictions to ensure that these institutions have established protocols for the management of students, staff and faculty who may be returning to campus from Ebola-affected countries.

As part of a comprehensive response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the North Carolina Division of Public Health has communicated with colleges and universities in our state to provide guidance for the management of potentially exposed persons returning to campus. Student health services have been the primary points of contact for most, but not all, of these institutions. They have been encouraged to communicate with their local health departments, Emergency Medical Services and local hospitals to collaboratively develop a plan for the evaluation and management of these returning students, staff and faculty.

Many colleges and universities in North Carolina have recently resumed classes or will begin in the upcoming days. Local health departments that have not already established communications with the universities in their jurisdictions are encouraged to promptly do so. Local health departments should ensure that these institutions have a plan in place to:

1. Provide information to students, staff and faculty who may be arriving from Ebola-affected countries (see accompanying infographic, also available at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/sbc.html#manuals>);
2. Evaluate and manage asymptomatic returnees who are identified as having high- or low-risk exposures to Ebola (including consideration for persons who may be subject to quarantine); and
3. Evaluate and manage exposed persons who present to student health services and are symptomatic (including planning for transport, isolation and medical care before transport).

Local health departments will be actively involved in the management of all persons identified as having high- or low-risk exposures (as described in Communicable Disease Branch 2014 Program Alert # 8). Therefore, institutions should be instructed to inform the local health department of all persons identified with these exposures. In the event an exposed, symptomatic person is identified, institutions should be advised to contact their local health department or the state Communicable Disease Branch immediately.

This is an evolving situation and recommendations are likely to change as new information becomes available. Updated information and guidance are available from the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola>. North Carolina Public Health will provide updates at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/hemorrhagic.html>.

www.ncdhhs.gov • <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/>
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