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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

January 4, 2016

Local Health Officers
County Health Executives

Dear Colleagues,

On December 29, 2015, WHO declared Guinea free of Ebola virus transmission after 42 days (two incubation periods) had passed since the last Ebola patient tested negative. The same day, CDC changed the country classification for Guinea to a country with “former widespread transmission and current, established control measures” As a result, the CDC has modified the enhanced Ebola port-of-entry screening for travelers coming to the United States from Guinea. CDC no longer recommends that health departments actively monitor travelers from Guinea.

Travelers from Guinea will be routed through three designated U.S. airports conducting enhanced entry screening [New York (JFK), Washington-Dulles (IAD), and Atlanta (ATL)]. Travelers will receive modified Check and Report Ebola (CARE) kits with instructions for them to watch their health for 21 days after leaving Guinea and to contact the health department if there is a fever or any other symptoms consistent with Ebola.

Effective today, January 4, 2016, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is discontinuing the traveler monitoring program for travelers from Guinea with the following recommendations:

- Local health departments (LHDs) may stop current monitoring of any travelers from Guinea. There is no need to continue monitoring through the 21-day period unless the LHD decides to continue the full monitoring of these travelers.
- California will continue to receive the daily CDC Epi-X notifications of travelers from Guinea and will provide this information to LHDs during business hours (holidays and weekends excluded). Notices that are received after hours will be forwarded the next business day.
- The CDPH Returning Traveler Epidemiologist will no longer track or notify of any entity of travelers who move between LHDs and states.



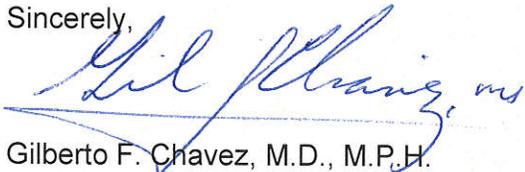
- The state contact number cited the modified CARE sheet (Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Warning Center (916-845-8911) and for Los Angeles County (213-989-7140) will be maintained.
 - Any traveler from Guinea that calls this number to report symptoms will be routed to the CDPH Duty Officer.
 - The CDPH Duty Officer will contact the LHD. If the CDPH Duty Officer is unable to contact the LHD, the CDPH Ebola Clinical Consultant will be contacted.
- CDPH will maintain the Returning Traveler Epidemiologist Team and the Ebola Clinical Consultant until further notice. These resources are available to LHDs for consultation as needed.
 - The Returning Traveler Epidemiologist can be reached during business hours at (916) 437-8166.
 - The Clinical Consultant can be reached by calling the DCDC Duty Officer at (800) 971-9631.

LHDs are not expected to continue active or direct monitoring of travelers from Guinea. However, LHDs may choose to follow up with travelers returning from Guinea at their own discretion.

The CDPH updated guidance for "Planning for and Management of Travelers from Ebola-Affected Countries and U.S. Ebola Case Contacts for Local Health Departments" can be found on the website at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cder/Pages/Ebola.aspx>. Please contact the CDPH Returning Traveler Epidemiologist at (916) 437-8166, if you have questions regarding the monitoring of returning travelers from Guinea.

Thank you for your ongoing support and implementation of Ebola preparedness and response activities during these last 16 months. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



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