



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Secretary of Health

April 23, 2021

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) wants to bring to your attention the new travel alerts and the March 4th, 2021 traveler notice issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) related to outbreaks of Ebola Virus Disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Guinea. CDC has issued [this guidance](#) to help medical personnel properly assess the risk of Ebola exposure a person might have when arriving in Arkansas from one of the two Ebola Outbreak Areas. Currently, ADH receives from CDC information on travelers from these 2 nations who arrive in Arkansas in order to assess their risk. ADH then monitors or takes appropriate action depending on their risk level per the guidance linked above.

The risk of Ebola Virus Disease entering the United States and Arkansas is very low, but we want to ensure that we are prepared. Please help us with this by taking the following actions:

1. **Take an accurate travel history**, especially from those with febrile illnesses and those who have traveled recently. Perform a [risk assessment](#) of those who have traveled from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Guinea. We would like to point out that the Ebola Outbreak Areas are confined to one region within [Guinea](#) and one region within the [DRC](#), and not the entirety of either nation, so the majority of travelers are not likely to have been exposed. Please take this into account as you provide care to those who have travelled from these countries.
2. Discuss this with your nursing and front-line staff, so that they are aware.
3. Plan for what you and your staff will do if you identify someone at high risk for Ebola Virus exposure or infection.
4. To report a person you suspect of Ebola virus exposure or disease, or to ask any questions about assessing such travelers, call ADH's Outbreak Response Section at (501) 537-8969 and ask to speak to an Outbreak Response Nurse. If after 4:30pm or on weekends, call the Emergency Communications Center at (501) 661-2136 and ask to speak to the physician on-call.

The Health Alert Network (HAN) gives notification regarding outbreaks or other urgent public health events. To learn more about HAN and sign up for alerts go to <https://hanregistration.adh.arkansas.gov>