



GRAYSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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EBOLA GUIDANCE FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed, through laboratory tests, the first case of [Ebola](#) to be diagnosed in the United States in a person who had traveled to **Dallas, Texas** from Liberia. The patient did not have symptoms when leaving West Africa, but developed symptoms approximately four days after arriving in the U.S. on Sept. 20. The person fell ill on Sept. 24 and sought medical care at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas on Sept. 26. After developing symptoms consistent with Ebola, he was admitted to hospital on Sept. 28.

Five Students enrolled in Dallas ISD did have contact with the infected man, and did subsequently attend class.

According to the CDC, The Ebola Virus can only be spread after symptoms begin. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola, but the average is 8 to 10 days. According to the CDC none of the students were symptomatic while attending school and none have shown symptoms to date. The Students have been quarantined and are continuing their education at home through the district's Homebound Program.

The virus is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or unprotected mucous membrane) with the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with ebola, with objects like needles that have been contaminated with the virus, or with infected animals. Ebola is not spread through the air, water or, in general, by food. School Districts are encouraged to follow standard precautions and policies for screening students for illnesses. It is also recommended that School Districts review standard practices to prevent disease transmission with faculty and students.

Early recognition is critical to controlling the spread of Ebola virus. School Medical Personnel should be alert for and evaluate any patients with symptoms consistent with Ebola Virus Disease and potential exposure history. **The most likely exposure risk to Ebola remains to be travel to effected African Countries including Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Senegal.** [Standard, contact, and droplet precautions](#) should be immediately implemented if Ebola Virus Disease is suspected. Guidance for evaluating patients is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/clinician-information-us-healthcare-settings.html>.

For more information on Ebola and the current Ebola Outbreak please visit the following websites:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

World Health Organization at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>

Texas Department of State Health Services at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/preparedness/ebola-outbreak.aspx>

If you need additional information about Ebola, please contact the Grayson County Health Department at (903) 893-0131 and speak with Josh Stevenson at extension 236 or send an e-mail to stevensonj@co.grayson.tx.us