

# Low Health Threat in Los Angeles County: Addressing Schools' Concerns about Ebola

## 1. Does Ebola pose a health risk to LA County?

No. The risk of getting sick with Ebola is very low in the U.S. and in LA County. Kids have a lower chance of getting Ebola since they're less likely to care for an Ebola patient or come into contact with their body fluids.

## 2. What should schools do if someone on campus just came back from a country affected by Ebola?

The risk of getting sick with Ebola on a school campus is very low. That's why students and staff returning from travel should **not** be excluded from school. Public health departments across the country are now monitoring all travelers who come into the U.S. from any country affected by Ebola. This protects everyone's health and limits exposure to Ebola. Any student or staff member who is at an LA County school after travelling, even to a country with Ebola, has been cleared to attend by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

## 3. When should school staff wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

It is unlikely that a person infected with Ebola will be at school. So, it is **not** recommended that school nurses wear PPE. Instead, they should follow their standard infection control practices for other illnesses, such as flu.

## 4. How can schools prevent the spread of Ebola?

Ebola is not spread easily; one has to have contact with the body fluids of an infected person. We encourage schools to focus on preventing more contagious diseases like, flu and enterovirus. They should also follow their standard procedures for students who are sick with any illness, such as flu or norovirus. Students and staff should also practice good hygiene such as frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, and staying home when sick. Everyone who can, should get the seasonal flu vaccine to help prevent the spread of flu.

## 5. How should schools address students' concerns about Ebola?

Schools should talk about students' fears and explain that...

- The risk is very low
- There are many plans in place to prevent the spread of Ebola
- Most of the African continent is **not** affected by Ebola and is not a risk to travelers or others



### Key Messages:

- The risk of getting sick with Ebola is very low in the U.S. and in LA County.
- Kids have a lower chance of getting Ebola since they're less likely to care for an Ebola patient or come into contact with their body fluids.
- Students or staff returning from travel should **not** be excluded from school.
- Public Health is monitoring all travelers from affected regions to ensure everyone's health and safety.

### Where can the public go for more information?

Los Angeles County,  
Department of Public Health  
Dial 2-1-1

California Department of  
Public Health  
916-558-1784

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
800-CDC-INFO  
800-232-4636

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