



Public Health Message

From Columbus Public Health & Franklin County Public Health

Ebola Outbreak Update – Democratic Republic of Congo

Because you are an important public health partner, we wanted to give you an update on the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and share some new guidance for health care providers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises health care providers in the U.S. to obtain travel history from all patients seeking care. Providers should promptly isolate patients who have symptoms compatible with *Ebola Virus Disease* (EVD) and a recent (within 21 days) history of travel to the affected areas in Equateur Province of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), pending diagnostic testing. Providers should also consider other infectious disease risks that are much more common in returning travelers, including malaria.

Health care providers who suspect Ebola should isolate the patient and report immediately to the Infectious Disease Reporting System (IDRS) at 614-525-8888.

Between April 4 and May 27, 2018, 54 Ebola cases, including 25 deaths, have been reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The World Health Organization (WHO) considers the public health risk to be very high at the national level, high at the regional level, and low at the international level. Currently, the outbreak does not meet criteria of an international public health emergency. WHO advises against restriction of travel to DRC based upon currently available information, but continues to closely monitor the situation.

Learn more about Ebola at <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/drc/2018-may.html>, <http://www.who.int/ebola/en> and <http://idrsinfo.org/index.php>.

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