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Ebola: Frequently Asked Questions in Schools

There have been no confirmed cases of Ebola in Tippecanoe County. The Tippecanoe County Health Department is committed to assisting our community and local healthcare providers in preparing for and responding to the challenges presented by Ebola. This fact sheet addresses some frequently asked questions about Ebola. Information is available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-factsheet.pdf.

What is Ebola and what are the symptoms of Ebola?

Ebola is rare and severe disease caused by infection with the Ebola virus. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola but the average is 8 to 10 days. Signs and symptoms of illness from Ebola typically include: fever (greater than 38.6°C or 101.5°F), severe headache, diarrhea, stomach pain, vomiting, or unexplained bleeding or bruising.

How does someone become infected with Ebola?

Infection with Ebola can only be spread by:

- Directly touching blood or body fluids (including feces, urine, or vomit) of a person who is sick with Ebola.
- Directly touching objects (like needles) that have been contaminated with blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with Ebola.

Ebola is **Not** spread through the air or water.

A person infected with Ebola is **Not** contagious until symptoms appear.

How will individuals who were potentially exposed to the Ebola virus identified and how will they be monitored?

Individuals who have resided in or traveled to Ebola-affected areas in West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) or had direct/close contact with a known/suspect EVD patient. All asymptomatic contacts will be placed under **quarantine in their place of residence for 21 days following possible exposure to Ebola Virus**. Individuals will be encouraged to voluntarily comply with quarantine procedures; however, TCHD is authorized to order mandatory quarantine should the need arise. Their health is being closely

observed for appearance of symptoms of Ebola virus. If the individual reports any symptoms suggestive of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) or a fever ≥ 100.5 F, TCHD personnel will activate EMS to arrange for the individual to be transported to an area hospital for evaluation. Persons who remain healthy after 21 days are not at risk for Ebola and can stop being quarantined.

If one of our students is under quarantine does the whole class need to be under quarantine?

No, only that student will need to be placed under quarantine. Ebola can only be transmitted from a person who has symptoms. The students under quarantine are asymptomatic.

Event that you do have a student that is quarantine?

Your school needs determine their process for extended absence in the event that one of students is placed under quarantine.