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Screening of Travelers at Airports

This fact sheet helps explain the measures the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, and their partners are taking at airports both in the United States and in affected countries in West Africa to prevent the spread of Ebola.

Exit screening in countries with Ebola outbreaks

Since the beginning of August, CDC has been working with airlines, airports, ministries of health, and other partners to provide technical assistance to countries with Ebola outbreaks. CDC has helped affected countries screen departing travelers from these countries (exit screening). Exit screenings are conducted at airports in these outbreak-affected countries to look for sick travelers or travelers exposed to Ebola and to delay them from boarding an airplane until it is safe for them to travel.

We continue to support and strengthen exit screening in these countries with CDC staff, protocols, and educational materials.

Exit screening might not find every person with Ebola; however, it does not have to be perfect to help reduce the spread of Ebola.

What exit screening looks like

Exit screening might look a little different in each country but contains the same basic elements. 1. All travelers

- Have their temperature taken
- Answer questions about their health and exposure history
- Are visually assessed for signs of potential illness

2. Travelers with symptoms or possible exposures to Ebola are separated and assessed further.
3. This assessment determines whether they are

- Allowed to travel
- Not allowed to travel on a commercial flight and referred to public health authorities for further evaluation

Entry screening in the United States

Looking for sick travelers at U.S. airports

CDC has 20 border health field offices (also known as quarantine stations) located at the ports of entry where most international travelers enter the United States. Every day, CDC works closely with partners

at U.S. international airports and other ports of entry to look for sick travelers with possible contagious diseases. These measures will be enhanced to detect possible cases of Ebola.

Because of the Ebola outbreak, CDC and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have begun doing enhanced entry screening of travelers who have been in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. By doing enhanced entry screening at 5 U.S. airports, we will evaluate over 94% of travelers from the affected countries. Our staff at all airports remain trained and ready to respond to any reports of ill travelers, and our robust public health system is prepared to respond and assist.

What enhanced U.S. entry screening looks like

For each arriving traveler who has been in Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone:

1. CBP will give each traveler a packet of CDC health information that includes
    - Information about Ebola
    - Symptoms to look for and what to do if symptoms develop
    - Information for doctors if travelers need to seek medical attention

2. CBP will
    - Take the travelers' temperature
    - Observe them for other symptoms of Ebola, and
    - Ask about their exposures and symptoms

3. If a traveler has a fever or other symptoms or has been exposed to Ebola, CBP will refer to CDC to further evaluate the traveler.
CDC will determine whether the traveler
    - Can continue to travel
    - Is taken to a hospital for evaluation, testing, and treatment
    - Is referred to a local health department for further monitoring and support

Entry screening is a part of a layered approach. When used with other public health measures, entry screening can strengthen our efforts to battle this virus. It is important that we act as global citizens, continuing to put our full weight behind response efforts in West Africa and providing support for those traveling here from that region.

More Information:
http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/traveler-information-center