



November 3, 2014

School Administrators:

Many of us are continuing to respond to questions from parents, staff and students about keeping the community safe from Ebola, and in particular how schools should respond when concerns arise about the disease.

It is important to know that there are no reported cases of Ebola in Contra Costa County, or anywhere in California, and the risk is very low. But there are plans in place to contain the disease and protect the public in the unlikely event of a local case.

Contra Costa Public Health will monitor any travelers who arrive in this county from one of the three West African countries affected by the Ebola outbreak – Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. More information about this and other local prevention and preparedness measures is available at cchealth.org/ebola.

Here are ways you can help:

1) Distribute our updated [Fact Sheet](#) regarding Ebola to your school community.

The Fact Sheet is easy to print, is available in English and Spanish, and includes details about risk, transmission, local prevention and response plans and links to web resources from the California Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Find the Fact Sheet at cchealth.org/ebola, under “Links & Resources” on the right side of the page.

2) Keep current about Ebola with Contra Costa Health Services.

You can find local information about Ebola at cchealth.org/ebola. Please feel free to share the resources on this page with concerned parents and staff, and make sure your staff knows how to find them.

Contra Costa Health Services also provides updates on Twitter (www.twitter.com/CoCoHealth) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/ContraCostaHealthServices).

3) Practice disease prevention at your school.

Now is a great time to review basic ways to prevent the spread of illness and disease. We work with your school nurses to keep your communities healthy. We suggest:

- Encouraging everyone to get a flu vaccine, and to follow the recommended vaccination schedule.
- Making sure that soap and paper towel dispensers are full and encourage hand washing.
- Making sure that students and staff with fever go home and stay home.
- Making sure all staff knows your procedures for cleaning up bodily fluids.

Finally, if you have questions about the information, need advice about a situation at your campus or need help talking about Ebola with members of your school community, there is expert help available from our Communicable Diseases Program at 925-313-6740.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Walker
Contra Costa County Health Officer

