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Health Alert Update: Ebola Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is Declared Over - Need to Screen for International Travel Remains a Best Practice.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has been closely monitoring the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). On July 24, 2018, the DRC declared the end of the EVD outbreak that began on May 8, 2018 after a successful, large scale international response that included enhanced surveillance, contact tracing, and ring vaccination with an investigational vaccine that had previously been used during the EVD outbreak in West Africa. In total, there were 54 confirmed and probable cases and 33 deaths. Over 3400 people were vaccinated.

While the risk of importation of EVD into California remains very low, infectious diseases are regularly imported into the state by returning California residents and travelers from all over the world. Specifically, CDPH regularly receives reports of malaria, dengue, hepatitis A, measles, illness due to enteric pathogens, and a variety of other illnesses in persons with a history of international travel. Thus, CDPH continues to remind healthcare providers in hospitals, emergency departments, clinics, and other outpatient settings to routinely ask patients with acute, possibly infectious illness about recent international travel, not just in the context of an EVD or other known infectious disease outbreak.

CDPH continues to recommend that:

- Healthcare and Emergency Medical System (EMS) providers should ask patients with acute, possibly infectious illness about recent travel. This information is very important for identifying possible causes of illness. International travel history should include all countries. Many infectious diseases (e.g., Zika, malaria, dengue) are more common in developing countries. However, some diseases that are rare in the U.S. (e.g., measles) are common in Europe and other industrialized countries.
- Healthcare providers and facilities should implement appropriate infection control procedures in all settings. If there is suspicion of an infectious disease, infection control precautions should be taken. The travel history can inform the specific infection control measures needed.



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- Local health departments should immediately notify the CDPH of any suspect patients with an unusual or high consequence infectious disease, such as EVD or another emerging pathogen.

Local health departments and CDPH can provide guidance on the evaluation and safe management of a patient with unusual infectious diseases such as EVD or other emerging infectious disease. CDPH will continue to monitor for emerging novel infectious diseases of significant public concern, including EVD, that may occur throughout the world and update local healthcare and public health partners with information and recommendations as needed.

For more information on EVD outbreak in DRC, please refer to the following:

WHO:

<http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/24-07-2018-ebola-outbreak-in-drc-ends-who-calls-for-international-efforts-to-stop-other-deadly-outbreaks-in-the-country>

<http://www.who.int/ebola/situation-reports/drc-2018/en/>

CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/index.html>