Ebola screening guidance for schools/colleges

11/17/14

National efforts are underway to track and monitor persons who may have been exposed to Ebola Virus Disease. Schools and colleges in Snohomish County are encouraged to screen students who have had recent (within the last 21 days) travel to Mali, Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have advised that all education-related travel to those counties be postponed until further notice.

If you have a student with recent travel to the above listed countries please use the following checklist to determine the student’s risk:

Yes  No  In the past 21 days did you travel from or have contact with somebody from an affected area: Mali, Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone.

If no, then no further action is needed. STOP EVALUATION.

If yes, ask about these symptoms:

Yes  No  Do you have a fever of 100.4°F or higher?
Yes  No  Do you have severe headache, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle pains, or unexplained abdominal pain?
Yes  No  Do you have unexplained bleeding/bruising?

And, ask about exposures: Did any of the following happen to you in the past 21 days?

Yes  No  Needle stick or body fluid splash on your face while caring for a possible Ebola case
Yes  No  Direct skin contact with blood, or body fluids (sweat, urine, feces, saliva, etc…) from an Ebola patient
Yes  No  Direct contact with a dead body without appropriate personal protective equipment
Yes  No  Household contact or other close contact with Ebola patients in healthcare facilities of community settings.

If YES to any of the symptoms AND YES to any of the exposures:
This is a suspect case and the student needs a full evaluation. Isolate the student and contact the Snohomish Health District immediately at (425) 339-5278. Anyone providing healthcare to a suspect case should use full personal protective equipment.
If NO to all symptoms, but YES to any of the exposures:
Contact the Snohomish Health District at (425) 339-5278 for a consultation.

If NO to all symptoms AND NO to all exposures, the person should self-monitor.
The student should be instructed to take these steps for 21 days:
- Take temperature twice a day. Once in the morning and once at night.
- Watch for the symptoms listed above. If symptoms develop during the 21 days, contact the Health District immediately at (425) 339-5278.
- Based on current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance no isolation or travel restrictions are recommended.
- If the student has not developed symptoms 21 days after potential exposure they DO NOT have Ebola and further monitoring is not needed.

If you have any questions about Ebola Virus Disease or suspect you have a student with Ebola Virus Disease please contact the Snohomish Health District Communicable Disease Program at: 425-339-5278

Updated 11/17/2014