The CSU Health Network, the Office of International Programs, and the International Travel Oversight Committee continue to closely monitor information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the U.S. Department of State regarding the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa.

The WHO has declared that the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in West Africa constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, and the CDC has issued a Level 3 travel warning for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, advising against all nonessential travel to those countries. The Peace Corps has temporarily withdrawn its volunteers who serve in those countries.

We strongly recommend that all CSU students, faculty, and staff avoid travel to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone until the CDC Level 3 travel warning has been downgraded. University-sponsored travel by students to those countries will not be approved until the above agencies have deemed the epidemic to be contained and have rescinded the travel warnings.

Regarding travel to other countries in West Africa, such as Ghana and Senegal, it is important to remember that, unlike influenza viruses, the Ebola virus is not spread by respiratory secretions or casual contact. Also unlike influenza and many other viral diseases, Ebola virus disease is not contagious until the affected person becomes ill with symptoms. Spread of Ebola requires direct contact with body fluids (especially blood, vomit, or feces) of someone severely ill with, or recently deceased from, the disease. Those at greatest risk are individuals who care for family members with the disease or who participate in funeral rituals which involve washing the deceased, as well as health care workers. The virus may also be contracted by handling or eating undercooked, contaminated bush meat. Given that students are unlikely to be in contact with the body fluids of infected persons and can avoid eating bush meat, the risk is very low for exposure to Ebola virus on typical education abroad programs, even when traveling in closed environments such as buses or airplanes.

Therefore, at this time, travel to West African countries will continue to be monitored closely and reviewed by the International Travel Oversight Committee as indicated. When applicable, individual and group travelers will be required to acknowledge that they have read the travel warnings about Ebola virus disease from the U.S. Department of State. The situation in Africa or in other parts of the world may change rapidly and unexpectedly, and so travelers should remain vigilant. The International Travel Oversight Committee may issue an alert or a travel directive for the CSU community at any time as new information arises.

Travelers who are returning from West Africa who feel symptomatic, even with just a fever, should seek urgent medical care and immediately inform the staff and health care providers about recent travel and potential contacts. The CSU Health Network is following the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE) in preparing for the possibility of providing urgent care for a patient with Ebola virus disease at CSU.
While media reports about Ebola continue to arouse a great deal of anxiety, the risk of widespread Ebola disease in the United States remains very small. We encourage the CSU community to remain calm, use common sense, and stay well-informed. For more information, please consult the following resources:


CDPHE: [https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ebola](https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/ebola)