



Scott Walker
Governor

1 WEST WILSON STREET
P O BOX 2659
MADISON WI 53701-2659

Kitty Rhoades
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

608-266-1251

FAX: 608-267-2832

Department of Health Services

dhs.wisconsin.gov

Dear Colleagues:

Please see the attached Pet & Animal Contact Recommendation Algorithm for use in determining and conveying pet/animal-related recommendations for asymptomatic travelers returning from Ebola affected countries.

During initial assessment, if a traveler is identified as having pets or animal contact, local public health staff should gather information about the traveler's pets and animal contact and the traveler should receive pet/animal-related counseling according to the person's level of risk (see algorithm). Travelers should also be given instructions on how to prevent exposing their pets/animals should they become symptomatic (see attached).

Background information about Ebola and animals:

- There is a lot of uncertainty surrounding the ability of animals to become infected with Ebola, develop disease, and transmit infection to other animals and people. Current recommendations are based on the scientific evidence available and made out of an abundance of caution.
- There have been no reports of dogs or cats becoming sick with Ebola virus or of being able to spread Ebola to people or other animals. However, it is important to keep people and animals away from blood or body fluids of a person with symptoms of Ebola infection to prevent exposure.
- Certain exotic or unusual pets (such as monkeys, apes, or pigs) have a higher risk of being infected with and shedding Ebola virus.
- There is currently no evidence that Ebola virus can infect non-mammals kept as pets, including birds, reptiles, amphibians, or fish.
- More information on Ebola and animals is available on CDC's website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/transmission/qas-pets.html>

Travelers under active monitoring (low risk) do not need to limit their pet/animal contact unless they become symptomatic.

Travelers under direct active monitoring (some or high risk) have more strict recommendations designed to prevent pet/animal exposure and eliminate the need for quarantine should the traveler become symptomatic (see algorithm). Unlike humans, it can sometimes be difficult to prevent pets from coming into contact with sweat, body fluids, or contaminated environments. Additionally, quarantine of pets/animals can be a stressful experience for both animal and owner, is quite costly, and can be prevented.

- Pet(s) should be removed from the traveler's home and cared for by another individual for the duration of the monitoring period. Public health officials can contact DPH CDES for assistance with this process, including coordination of animal fostering if necessary. The pet poses no risk to other caretakers or contacts if it is removed from the household before a person becomes symptomatic.

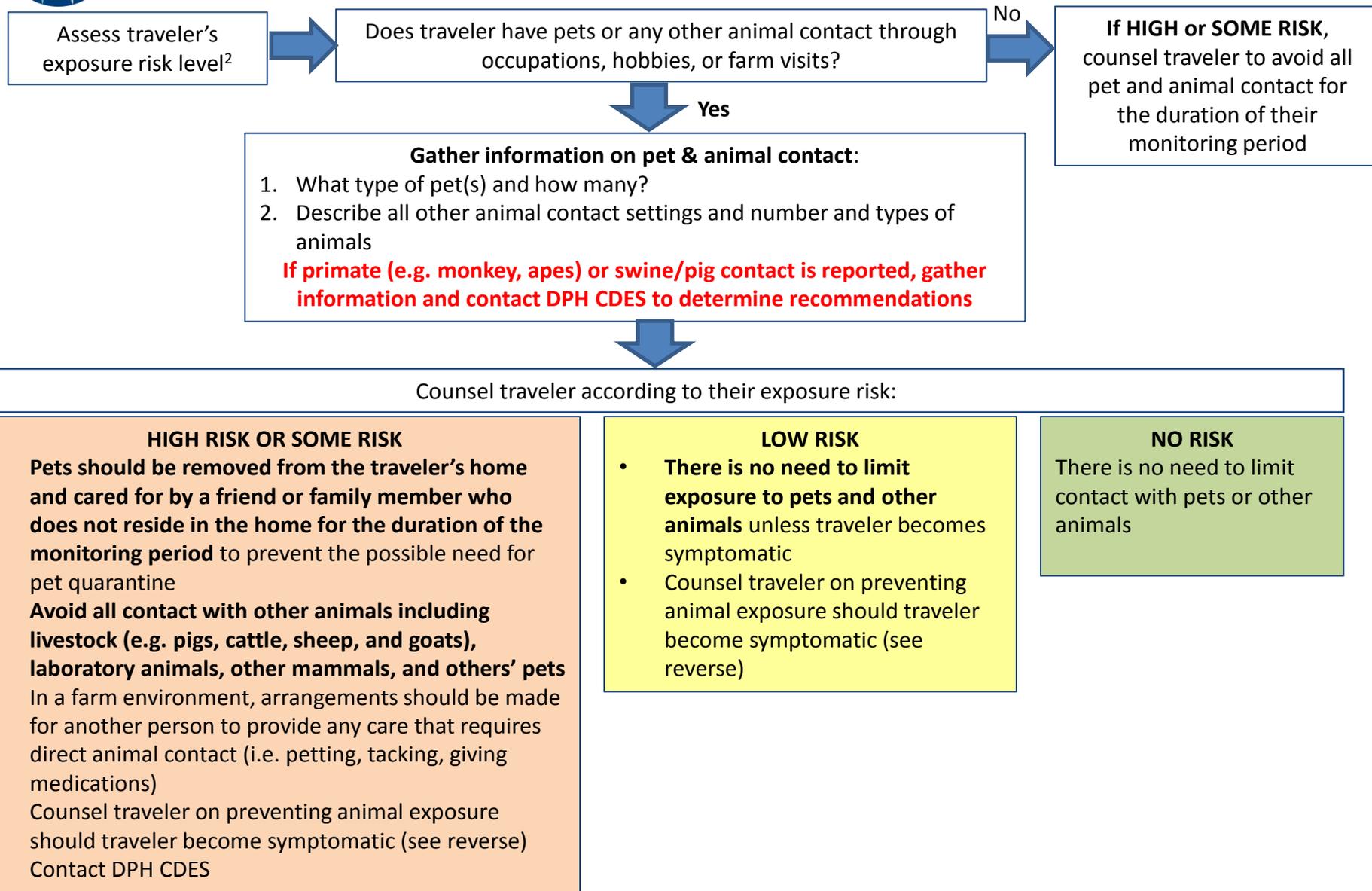
- These individuals should also avoid all contact with other animals including livestock (e.g. pigs, cattle, sheep, and goats), laboratory animals, other mammals, and others' pets to prevent possible transmission of Ebola from people to animals.
- In a farm environment, the traveler should not provide any care that requires direct contact with the animal (i.e. petting, brushing, tacking, giving medications).

For additional questions related to pets/animals and Ebola, please contact the Communicable Disease Epidemiology Section at (608) 267-9003.



Pet & Animal Contact Recommendation Algorithm for Asymptomatic Travelers Returning from Ebola Affected Countries¹

12/22/2014



¹For a list of currently affected countries visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html#areas>

²Evaluating Ebola exposure risk: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/risk-factors-when-evaluating-person-for-exposure.html>



Instructions for Symptomatic Pet Owners

If you become sick with fever or any symptoms including severe headache, fatigue, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, or unexplained bruising or bleeding:

- Stop all direct contact with other people and avoid all interactions with pet(s) including petting, feeding, holding, kissing, snuggling, sharing food, or letting pet lick you.
- Keep people and animals away from your blood or body fluids.
- Immediately contact your local health department at first indication of illness (such as a higher body temperature). Report where your pet(s) will be safely located in the home. If urgent, contact 9-1-1 and inform them you are being monitored for Ebola.
- The pet should be placed in a crate, bathroom, or spare bedroom with food and water to keep the pet safe.
 - If possible, another person in your household should handle the pet while ensuring it is safely separated from you.
 - If you live alone, you should avoid all direct contact with the pet while making sure the pet is safely separated from you.
- Be prepared to provide details to a public health official that includes types of contact your pet may have had with you while you had symptoms. A public health veterinarian, in collaboration with other public health officials, will determine if your pet is at risk for exposure to Ebola and how to properly care for the pet.
- Pets must not leave the premises for any reason until an exposure assessment is made by your health officials.