



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

Ebola Situation Report

January 15, 2015¹

Newly updated information is indicated in **bold/blue**.

Overview

- There are no Ebola cases in Wisconsin at this time.
- As of **January 15, 2015**, **nine** people in Wisconsin currently meet the criteria for Ebola surveillance by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). DHS has monitored a total of **81** people, one of whom has left the state, and **72** of whom have passed the 21-day incubation period for Ebola and no longer require monitoring.
- CDC notifies DHS of all individuals traveling from the affected West African countries to Wisconsin, and DHS notifies the local public health agencies (LPHAs) where those individuals reside. These LPHAs are in daily communication with the travelers and are checking for the presence of fever or other symptoms. This active monitoring ensures that if these individuals become ill, they can be rapidly isolated and evaluated.
- In the event Ebola is diagnosed in the state, DHS will work with partners and the three designated health systems to care for patients, ensuring that each patient receives the best care while protecting healthcare workers and the general public, and ensure coordinated communication with response partners, including the Governor's Office and the Department of Military Affairs via the Incident Command System activated on October 3, 2014.
- As of **January 12, 2015**, the World Health Organization (WHO) recognized **21,206** Ebola cases and **8,386** deaths in nine countries.
- **On January 13, 2015, Jeremy Konyndyk, the Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance stated that now that the rate of new Ebola cases in Liberia decreased from more than 30 per day to single digits and Sierra Leone is beginning to turn the corner in its response, health officials are now focused on Guinea. Health officials emphasize that eradicating the disease will be a long process.**
- **Effective January 6, 2015, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) removed Mali from the list of Ebola-affected nations for which recent travelers are subject to enhanced visa and port-of-entry screening. There are currently no active Ebola cases in Mali and over 42 days have passed since the last known Ebola patient in Mali had contact with someone who was not wearing personal protective equipment. CDC and DHS continue**

¹ The last Situation Report was issued on December 18, 2014.

to conduct enhanced entry screening at five U.S. airports for all U.S.-bound air travelers who have been in the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone.

- On December 29, 2014, a Scottish nurse who had provided care to Ebola patients in West Africa was diagnosed with Ebola following her return to Scotland.

What the Department of Health Services (DHS) is doing to prepare:

- Karen McKeown, State Health Officer and Administrator, presented an update on Wisconsin's activities on the regular Ebola webcast for partners on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.
- Jon Meiman, CDC Epidemic Intelligence Officer, provided an update on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa on the Tuesday, January 13, 2015 webcast as well. The next partner webcast on Ebola is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Recordings of previous webcasts and the link to the next webcast can be found at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/ebola-virus-disease-partner-webcasts.htm>.
- Following CDC and the Department of Homeland Security's removal of Mali from the list of Ebola-affected nations for which recent travelers are subject to enhanced screening, Wisconsin's healthcare providers and partners were notified via email of this development and informed that when asking patients about recent travel in Africa, they should stop including Mali in their inquiries.
- The next DHS Ebola webcast will take place on **Tuesday, February 17, 2015** at 2 pm. Links to access the website will be posted at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/ebola-virus-disease-partner-webcasts.htm>.
- DHS continues to assist all partners by receiving, tracking, and disseminating the most up-to-date guidance from other state and federal partners. Visit the DHS Ebola website for more information: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/ebola-virus-disease.htm>.