

# Ebola FAQs for Managers and Employees

**Ebola is not transmitted through the air, food, or water. The virus can ONLY be transmitted through direct contact with blood or other bodily fluids from an infected person showing active symptoms, or direct contact with contaminated objects, like needles.**

## **Is it safe for me to go to work at Yale?**

Yes. It is safe to go to work at Yale. Very few people in the United States are at risk of contracting Ebola. It is transmitted only by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person showing active symptoms (fever, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising), or from contaminated objects. Employees should come to work without fear of being exposed to Ebola virus.

## **Do I need to wear protective gear on campus?**

No. Protective gear is not needed and is not advised.

## **I work on the medical campus, and have contact with medical students and faculty, plus doctors and nurses and others from the hospital. Can I get Ebola from people who have been in or near Yale-New Haven Hospital?**

The hospital did admit an individual who had a low-grade fever, but that individual tested negative for Ebola, so it is highly unlikely that any Yale-New Haven Hospital personnel or visitors have been exposed to or could transmit Ebola. In addition, Yale-New Haven Hospital employs protection measures even greater than those recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to lower the risk of transmission. YNHH has advanced equipment and facilities and a staff well trained to treat any patient with Ebola, and holds regular drills to address situations such as infectious disease outbreaks.

## **Do I need to be worried about interacting with people from Africa or people who have recently traveled in Africa or in Spain, where there are confirmed cases of Ebola?**

Travel screening protocols, tightened travel policies, and enhanced precautions for individuals who have recently been in areas where Ebola is active (currently only Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone) make it possible to go about your normal routine without fear of being exposed to Ebola virus. Very few people in the U.S. are at risk of contracting Ebola, which is transmitted only by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person showing active symptoms, or from contaminated objects, like needles.

## **What about participating in or going to sporting events at Yale?**

It is safe for you and your family to go to the Payne-Whitney Gym or to attend Yale sporting events without fear of being exposed to Ebola virus.

## **What if I get a fever or someone in my family gets sick?**

If you or one of your loved ones feels sick, consult with your doctor or medical professional immediately. Again, very few people are at risk of contracting Ebola, but there are other, more common and more easily transmittable diseases, such as the flu, that can present symptoms like fever, headache, and stomach pain. As a smart precaution, consider getting a flu shot at a [Yale Health flu clinic](#).

## **Does Yale have a plan to deal with a dangerous disease on campus?**

Yes. Yale has an emergency management department with strong expertise in addressing emergencies of all kinds – from weather emergencies to campus threats to a disease outbreak. The university gained direct practical experience and proven success in addressing a disease outbreak on campus, during the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic.

## **Who can I contact for more information?**

Please contact Yale's Office of Emergency Management at [oem@yale.edu](mailto:oem@yale.edu) or [visit their web site](#). Your inquiry will be directed to the appropriate person for a response. Yale-New Haven Hospital has also established a call center for community members with questions about Ebola. The call center is staffed by a clinical team 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The call center number is 203-789-3400. You may also visit the [CDC web site](#) for additional information.

## **I'm still feeling anxious about this. What can I do?**

All Yale employees have access to [free, confidential counseling and support services](#) provided by Magellan Health Services. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and can be accessed online or by calling 800-327-9240