

# Ebola FAQs for Masters, Deans, Parents, Students

**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 to go to class?**

Yes. It is safe to go to class. Very few people in the United States 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 (fever, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising), or from contaminated objects, like needles. Students should go to class without fear of being exposed to Ebola virus.

## **Can I eat in the dining hall? Go to the library? The gym? Participate in sporting events?**

Yes. It is safe for you to go about your normal routine on campus without fear of being exposed to Ebola virus.

## **What if I come into contact with someone from the Medical School or someone who works at Yale-New Haven Hospital?**

You should not be concerned about interacting with people from the medical campus or the hospital. The hospital did admit an individual who had a low-grade fever, but that individual tested negative for 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 if I get a fever or my roommate gets sick?**

If you or one of your roommates feels sick, call the Yale Health [Student Health Department](#) (203-432-0312) or the [Acute Care Department](#) (203-432-0123), which is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, right away for information and guidance. 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 Yale 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.