

YALE UNIVERSITY

UPDATED POLICY ON TRAVEL TO EBOLA-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

June 2015- Updated

Although the Ebola outbreak in West Africa has been mitigated significantly, it continues to impact communities and the health care systems and public infrastructure in Sierra Leone and Guinea. As of May 9, 2015 the Ebola outbreak in Liberia was declared over. We are continuing to monitor information about the virus and consulting with colleagues at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the state and local Departments of Public Health.

The CDC Travel Warning remains at Level 3 (the highest level of warning), urging all U.S. residents to avoid nonessential travel to Sierra Leone and Guinea. CDC is no longer recommending that US residents avoid nonessential travel to Liberia. However, CDC recommends that US residents practice enhanced precautions when traveling to Liberia. Recognizing Yale's mission to create new and useful knowledge, coupled with the responsibility to protect our community from the Ebola threat, the university is continuing to restrict student, faculty, and staff travel to Sierra Leone and Guinea and is lifting the travel restriction to Liberia.

Procedures for travel to coastal West Africa are as follows:

- Students, faculty, and staff should not travel to Sierra Leone and Guinea, except for the most urgent purposes, which may include contributing to efforts to contain and eliminate the Ebola outbreak.
- Those needing to travel to other countries in West Africa should consult <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices> for travel advisories and other information and make their plans accordingly.
- Undergraduates will not receive credit or funding for activities involving travel to Sierra Leone and Guinea.
- Graduate and professional students and faculty who wish to travel to Sierra Leone and Guinea to engage in university-related activity and/or using university funding in order to contribute to efforts to contain and eliminate the Ebola outbreak, and who believe that their

travel is “essential,” must obtain approval from their School and the Provost’s Office. They must submit a proposal for travel to their dean and -- upon approval by the dean -- to the provost for review and approval prior to departure. In order to be approved for travel, proposals must satisfactorily address the following criteria:

- Faculty and G&P students must provide evidence that they have special expertise to contribute effectively to efforts to contain and eliminate the Ebola outbreak in one or more of the following areas: infectious disease and epidemic control; administrative skills in organizing resources and logistics; special knowledge of/experience in the region; special clinical ability related to treatment of infectious diseases.
- For research-related travel, an approved research protocol must be provided to the dean, indicating how the research is intended to create knowledge that would address the epidemic (such as community responses, effective health and government organizational structures and priorities, epidemiology, spread of disease, clinical management and treatment, etc).
- Arrangements to travel and work must be under the auspices of a recognized aid or other international organization. Examples of such organizations include the CDC, Doctors Without Borders, and International Medical Corps.
- Those proposing to engage in clinical work or who will be in contact with patients must provide evidence of training in the use of personal protective equipment and should indicate that they are familiar with and will comply with CDC guidelines and protocols for personal health and protection.
- Since UnitedHealthcare Global Assistance may be unable to offer assistance with emergency evacuation, medical treatment, or in-country sequestration, proposals must include a personal emergency plan which describes plans and resources to support the traveler if he or she were to be sequestered in country as well as plans for evacuation from the country, if needed.
- All members of the Yale community traveling to Sierra Leone or Guinea for any reason must register at the Yale international travel [website](#) prior to leaving Yale. This registration must include a dependable means of communication that the university may use if contact with the travelers is necessary. Travelers must understand that even Yale-related approved

visits may be cut short or terminated depending on changes in conditions in country. All travelers to these countries must become familiar with and comply with CDC guidelines and protocols for personal health and protection. These will be updated continuously and will include specific instructions about what the traveler must do before, during, and after travel, including prior to returning to campus.

- Individuals returning from Sierra Leone and Guinea. Before returning to campus, all travelers must call the Yale Health Inpatient Unit at (203) 432-0001 to register their travel status before returning to campus, and receive information about monitoring and reporting on their health. Yale works with the CT Department of Public Health and local health officials to obtain detailed information about the person's travel history and potential exposures, and determines the level of risk exposure and necessary steps to protect the individual and the public's health (see definitions below). The Connecticut Department of Public Health still requires active monitoring, not quarantine, of all returnees from these countries. Local health officials will contact individuals daily to obtain their temperatures and determine whether they have developed any symptoms of illness for 21 days. Some individuals who have traveled to affected areas, if exposure to Ebola is considered to be high risk may have their movement restricted and/or be confined to one location. Individuals who must have their movement restricted upon return may not stay in university housing. Persons deemed to be at 'some' risk may receive direct active monitoring that includes directly observing the person being monitored at least once a day.
 - Yale officials managing programs on campus may involve international visitors from Sierra Leone and Guinea. All travelers will have their health monitored for 21 days. Travelers who are considered to be at a high risk of getting the disease, would also be required to comply with movement restrictions
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- An individual subject to a quarantine or isolation order may appeal such order to the Probate Court for the district in which such person is quarantined or isolated. The court shall hold a hearing within 72 hours of receipt of the request, excluding weekends and legal holidays. The court may extend the time for a hearing based on extraordinary

circumstances. A request for a hearing does not stay the order of quarantine or isolation issued by the Commissioner. Any person aggrieved by an order of the Probate Court in such a matter may appeal to the Superior Court.

What is Quarantine and Isolation?

Quarantine and Isolation help protect the public by preventing exposure to people who have or may have a contagious disease.

QUARANTINE means that you are not sick, but are kept away from other people because you may have been exposed to an infectious or contagious disease. If you are in quarantine and become sick, you will not infect anyone else and prompt medical treatment can be arranged for you.

ISOLATION is when you are kept away from other people because you are sick (or there is reason to believe you are sick) and can infect other people.

Yale Health Travel Clinic: 203.432.0093

Yale Emergency Travel Registry: <<http://world-toolkit.yale.edu/resources-topic/travel>>

CDC advice to colleges and universities: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/recommendations-international-travel-for-education-purposes-ebola-outbreak-west-africa>

Comments, questions, or requests for information may be directed by email to <oem@yale.edu>