



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Public Health

November 5, 2014

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) would like to share current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with Louisiana's Department of Education and Department of Children and Family Services. CDC's Resources for Parents, Schools, and Pediatric Healthcare Professionals at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/children/index.html> provides information for parents, families, schools and child care centers along with several helpful resources. Please share this information with the schools and child care centers in the State.

There have been no cases of Ebola in children in the United States. Currently, the risk that a child in the United States could become sick with Ebola is extremely low because infection requires direct contact with an Ebola patient while the patient is symptomatic. The CDC and the U.S. Department of Education are working on detailed guidelines to help address concerns related to the possibility of Ebola-related issues at schools and child care centers.

Ebola poses little risk to the U.S. general population and is not contagious until symptoms appear. It is spread through direct contact with blood or body fluids (such as urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, and semen) of an infected person, or with objects like needles that have been contaminated with the virus.

Below are additional resources:

- Ebola: The Facts for Head Start Programs  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/ebola-the-facts-for-head-start-programs>
- Understanding Ebola: Information for Head Start and Early Head Start Parents  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/understanding-ebola-information-for-head-start-and-early-head-start-parents>
- Understanding Ebola: Information for Child Care Providers  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/understanding-ebola-information-for-child-care-providers>
- Understanding Ebola: For Parents of Young Children  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/understanding-ebola-for-parents-of-young-children>
- How Do I Talk to My Child About Ebola?  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohsepr/resource/how-do-i-talk-to-my-child-about-ebola>

It is always good to avoid contact with anyone who is sick and to wash your hands regularly. Use soap and water if available or use hand sanitizer. In addition, staying home when you are sick (and keeping sick children home from school), covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces are good practices that help prevent many different illnesses.

Louisiana school and child care officials should consult with DHH on Ebola-related decisions. For general discussion about Ebola, email the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals at [Ebola@la.gov](mailto:Ebola@la.gov) or call 1-800- LA-EBOLA (1-800-523-2652). Immediately notify the Louisiana Office of Public Health at 504-568-8313 or after hours at 800-256-2748 to discuss a possible exposure, report a suspected case, and arrange for laboratory testing.