



Health Services Department of Developmental Services

DDS Bulletin

As of July of 2026, multiple countries in Africa, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan, are responding to outbreaks of Ebola disease (caused by Bundibugyo Virus). Recently, the WHO has also reported cases of Marburg Virus. While Massachusetts Department of Public Health officials have advised that these outbreaks and cases do not pose an active threat to local communities in our Commonwealth, travelers visiting affected countries this summer should remain informed and follow recommended public health guidance.

Provider agencies should encourage staff who are planning travel to regions affected by Ebola or Marburg virus to stay informed about current public health recommendations and travel advisories before departure. Ebola and Marburg are serious viral diseases that spread through direct contact with infected bodily fluids and can cause serious illness, including fatality. The US Department of State currently advises against travel to certain affected areas, with some countries in Africa currently designated as level 4: Do Not Travel due to the Ebola outbreak. (<https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories.html>)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued [Public Health Guidance for Ebola Disease | Ebola | CDC](#) to help reduce the risk of disease spread into the United States.

Provider agencies whose staff travel to areas affected by Ebola or Marburg should review their internal policies and procedures to ensure they are consistent with current CDC and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) guidance and appropriate for the populations they support. Staff returning from affected countries should follow all CDC and DPH recommendations, including any required public health screening and monitoring.

As a precaution, provider agencies should be familiar with current CDC and DPH guidance regarding travelers returning from areas affected by Ebola or Marburg disease. During the 21-day monitoring period following a staff member's departure from an affected area, any monitoring or work-related considerations should be based on applicable public health guidance and the staff's travel history and exposure risk. Depending on the individual's travel history, exposure risk, and applicable public health recommendations, such measures may include daily symptom and temperature monitoring or, when recommended by public health authorities or otherwise appropriate based on an individual risk assessment, temporary modification to work assignments to reduce direct contact with DDS service recipients. Particular consideration should be given to individuals identified by public health authorities as having higher-risk exposures, such as direct contact with the



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blood or body fluids of a person with Ebola or Marburg Virus, an occupational exposure involving broken skin or mucous membranes, or participation in funeral or burial activities associated with an outbreak.

Staff who are contacted by public health officials regarding their exposure risk or monitoring recommendations should promptly notify their supervisor to coordinate any necessary operational planning and ensure compliance with applicable public health guidance. When appropriate, provider agencies should coordinate with state or local public health authorities regarding any recommended workplace or infection prevention measures. Any staff member who develops symptoms consistent with Ebola or Marburg Virus during the 21-day monitoring period should not report to work, should immediately isolate themselves, and should contact a healthcare provider and public health officials for further guidance before seeking in-person medical care.