April 7, 2015

RE: Guidance for Colleges and Universities Regarding Academic Travel during the West Africa Ebola Outbreak

Greetings,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) currently has a Travel Health Notice in place for West African countries that are still impacted by the Ebola Virus Disease, specifically, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. These countries have a Travel Health Notice issued at a Warning Level 3, Avoid Non-Essential Travel. Non-essential travel includes travel for educational-related purposes and research; the CDC advises that such travel be postponed until the Ebola Outbreak concludes or the Warning Level 3 is no longer in place. Updated Travel Health Notices can be found at: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices.

Personnel and students returning from Ebola-affected countries will undergo screening at one of five airports to check for Ebola-like symptoms and provide destination and contact information. Those who pass the screening may continue to their destination. Upon arrival, they will undergo additional screening to determine risk level and direct active monitoring via the local health department. Individuals with the following risk levels will need to be in contact with the Tippecanoe County Health Department for direct active monitoring: high risk, some risk, and low (but not zero) risk. Further information regarding risk levels can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/risk-factors-when-evaluating-person-for-exposure.html

The entire direct active monitoring process will last for 21 days (the incubation period for the Ebola virus) after arrival in the United States. Monitoring will begin with an initial face-to-face meeting for an initial assessment and symptom (including temperature) check with personnel from the Tippecanoe County Health Department and State Department of Health. The initial meeting will be followed by twice daily temperature and symptom checks for Ebola, which can be completed via Skype or FaceTime with Health Department staff. If students, faculty, or staff are planning travel to Liberia, Guinea, or Sierra Leone, they should expect to undergo this screening and direct active monitoring process. Additionally, they should understand that depending upon their risk for developing Ebola, there may be restrictions placed upon their movement during the 21 day monitoring period.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the CDC website http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/ or ISDH website http://www.in.gov/isdh/26447.htm

Respectfully,

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http://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/departments/health