



Minnesota  
STATE COLLEGES  
& UNIVERSITIES

## Ebola Preparedness Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What do the MnSCU system office and MDH expect of a campus in the event of possible or confirmed cases of Ebola on campus?**

The expectation is that campus officials will give complete cooperation and support to MDH and local public health officials as they manage these cases.

**2. Will the MnSCU system office coordinate system communications with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)?**

For the purposes of disseminating general information from and questions to MDH, the System Office Ebola Preparedness Team will be the central contact with MDH to ensure accuracy and consistency of information across the system. In the event of a localized case or situation, the affected campus will work directly with MDH and will follow their direction.

**3. Is the MnSCU system office establishing an informational SharePoint site?**

Yes. The URL is: <https://connect.mnscu.edu/sites/ebolaprep/SitePages/Home.aspx>. The site is available to anyone with a system StarID number. Among other things, the site includes contact information for the system Ebola Preparedness Team, links to valuable national and statewide resource information about Ebola and management issues, as well as a system discussion section.

**4. What are the different MDH levels of concern at which point we would be notified of an Ebola case on campus? In other words what is the MDH protocol for reporting to campus?**

MDH has identified three levels of concern: low risk, some risk, and high risk.

In the case of an individual identified as low risk, MDH contacts the individual and asks them to take their temperature twice daily and phone in the results. MDH will not notify the campus in this situation.

In the case of an individual identified as some risk, MDH will work jointly with the local public health department and conduct direct active monitoring of the individual. Health officials will be physically present to take the individual's temperature and observe for other symptoms. MDH will not notify the campus in this situation. However, if the individual self-discloses their status to student and/or employees at the campus, MDH will assist the campus with communication and education efforts to address concerns.

In the case of an individual identified as high risk, they will be quarantined and will not be allowed to travel to Minnesota. The chances of high risk individuals being able to enter Minnesota is extremely slim. On the off chance they are able to travel to Minnesota, they will be placed in quarantine and managed by MDH and local public health. In this case, MDH would notify the campus.

**5. Will the MDH notify a campus or the MnSCU system office if someone in its community is being monitored and/or is self-monitoring for Ebola?**

See #4. MDH will generally make available the total number of people being monitored in the state for Ebola symptoms. An individual's inclusion in an Ebola monitoring program, however, is private medical information and MDH could share such information with an employer, school or others only with that individual's consent. Information about Ebola monitoring protocols can be found at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/vhf/monitoring.html>.

**6. What recommendations/directions can the MnSCU system office or MDH give us at this time to minimize rumor control of returning students/faculty/staff being monitored or have a confirmed case?**

Educating employees and students about Ebola is the best approach to managing the rumor mill. The Ebola Preparedness SharePoint site will be available to anyone with a StarID. Campus Ebola contacts should encourage employees and students to go to the site for objective information. It may also be helpful to remind employees of the need to respect the privacy of individuals impacted by the Ebola outbreak, and reassure everyone that we are and will continue to follow MDH recommendations, as applicable, to protect the health and safety of the campus community.

**7. If a student is asked to self-quarantine for 21 days how do we help them keep up with their academic progress?**

If a student informs his/her college or university officials of absences due to participation in Ebola monitoring, no special protocols are required. Please refer to your campus policies or student handbook regarding extended absence due to illness.

**8. What are the detailed procedures for cleanup of contaminated areas/location/room anyone symptomatic of Ebola?**

On the SharePoint site are resource links from MDH and information in the discussion section specifically related to Ebola decontamination of non-medical facilities; there are two procedures listed: one is for early-symptomatic individuals and another for fully-symptomatic individuals.

**9. Would campuses use in-house staff/employees group (GMW's) or use an outside vendor directed by the county or MDH for cleanup?**

For early –symptomatic individuals, since they are not contagious, campuses will follow their normal cleanup protocols. For fully-symptomatic individuals campuses will follow the directions from MDH.

**Who are these outside vendors - do we have a list?**

MDH is putting together the vendor list that they will use in the event of an Ebola case occurring in MN.

**10. Do campuses need to purchase any new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and if so --- what?**

No. There is no need for campuses to purchase any special Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).