

OFFICIAL NOTICE

CDC: all air passengers to the US must sign Ebola attestation from 3 November

When	2026-11-03
Where	United States / international flights
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Summary

The US CDC issued an order on 22 October 2026 requiring every passenger boarding an international flight to or connecting through the United States to sign a statement that they have not been in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the previous 21 days. It takes effect at 11:59 p.m. EST on 3 November 2026 and applies to US citizens and residents too.

Full text (English)

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published an order on 22 October 2026 adding a new paperwork step for anyone flying to the United States, including travellers leaving Panama. From 11:59 p.m. EST on 3 November 2026, each passenger must sign an attestation - on paper or digitally at check-in or boarding - confirming they have not been present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the 21 days before the flight. Merely connecting through a DRC airport counts as being present there. Anyone who does not sign will not be allowed to board, and knowingly false statements can bring federal fines or prison under 18 U.S.C. 1001. The rule applies to commercial, general aviation and private flights, to pre-clearance ports, and to passengers only transiting the US to another country; it does not apply at land borders or seaports. US citizens, nationals and green-card holders are covered; narrow exemptions exist for medical transport of Ebola patients and humanitarian cases approved by CDC. Each traveller needs their own form, with a parent or authorised adult signing for children under 18 or for passengers unable to sign. Airlines must keep the forms for 42 days and hand them to the US government on request. The measure is a precaution against the introduction of Ebola, the 21 days matching the disease's maximum incubation period.