



Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
**Division of Disease Control**

CARMEN I. PARIS, M.P.H.  
*Interim Health Commissioner*

JOSEPH C. CRONAUER  
*Executive Deputy / Chief of Staff*

Caroline C. Johnson, MD  
*Director, Division of Disease Control*

# ***Health Notification***

## **Medical Evaluation of Lebanese Evacuees July 28, 2006**

Beginning on Friday July 21, 2006, the Philadelphia International Airport became a site for US repatriation of Lebanese evacuees. A medical evaluation clinic (MEC) was set up at the airport by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) to deal with anticipated medical and behavioral health needs of passengers.

Evacuees consisted of US citizens working, traveling, or living in Lebanon; persons with dual citizenship of the US and Lebanon; and US citizen family members with a travel visa. Upon arrival in Philadelphia, each flight was met by staff from CDC's Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ). DGMQ boarded the plane and screened passengers for quarantinable conditions, such as active febrile respiratory illness, as well as any acute medical issues; these cases were referred immediately to the MEC. Other evacuees seeking medical care self-referred to the clinic.

As of July 28, 2006, a total of 15 flights have arrived in Philadelphia, carrying 4,045 passengers. Among these, 238 people (6%) presented for medical evaluation. 93 were children. The most frequent medical encounters were for gastroenteritis, upper respiratory tract infections, hypertension, diabetes, dehydration, dizziness, lower extremity edema, headache, and trauma. Ten of 238 (4%) patients required immediate transport from the airport to local hospitals for evaluation and treatment, as follows: soft tissue trauma (3), lower extremity fracture (2), abdominal pain (2), COPD (1), Hypertension (1), and pregnancy complication (1). Although behavioral health services were available, they were not widely used.

No patients have been quarantined and no reportable diseases have been identified among the passengers. Repatriation efforts at the airport will end today.