

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

EMS Providers & First Responders

Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola): Synthesis of CDC Guidance for EMS Providers and First Responders “Ask. Isolate. Call.”

This is a rapidly evolving situation. We anticipate that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will continue to update their Ebola guidance. Please see the CDC website for the most current recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

Information and contacts

All suspect cases should be immediately reported to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) at 303-692-2700 (evenings and weekends: 303-370-9395). CDPHE will coordinate communication with CDC.

Background

Ebola virus is spread person-to-person through direct contact with bodily fluids (such as blood, vomit, diarrhea, urine, sweat, semen, saliva, and breast milk). The incubation period is usually 8-10 days (range 2-21 days). Patients can transmit the virus while febrile and through later stages of disease, as well as postmortem. Patients are not contagious until symptomatic.

- For information on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, see: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html>
- EMS Checklist for Ebola Preparedness: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ems-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf>

ASK: Evaluating Risk of Exposure of Persons to Ebola Virus Disease

First responders should ask about travel to Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea (in West Africa) for any patient experiencing fever or other symptoms of Ebola (severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage). Early recognition is critical to controlling the spread of Ebola virus.

CDC checklists and a decision trees are available here:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/evd-screening-criteria.pdf>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-algorithm.pdf>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>

CDPHE poster for healthcare providers to ask about Ebola:

- https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/ComDis_CD-Ebola-Ask-About-Ebola-Poster.pdf

ISOLATE: Infection Prevention and Control of Suspected Ebola Patients

Patients who report a travel history to an Ebola-affected country (currently Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and who are exhibiting Ebola symptoms should be **isolated** and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions (gowns, facemask, eye protection, and gloves). First responders should maintain a log of all persons having contact with the patient.

- Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) : <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-emergency-medical-services-systems-911-public-safety-answering-points-management-patients-known-suspected-united-states.html>
- Guidance on Air Medical Transport for Patients with EVD: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-air-medical-transport-patients.html>

- Environmental infection control: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/environmental-infection-control-in-hospitals.html>
- Handling human remains: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-safe-handling-human-remains-ebola-patients-us-hospitals-mortuaries.html>

CALL: Report all suspect cases

Call CDPHE immediately at **303-692-2700 (evenings and weekends: 303-370-9395)** to report patients with travel to affected countries and any of the symptoms listed above and to discuss diagnostic testing.

Additional Resources:

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever Fact Sheet/Infographics:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/resources/pdfs/Ebola-FactSheet.pdf>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/infographic.pdf>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ghs-ebola-materials.pdf>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/west-africa-outbreak-infographic.pdf>

FAQs about Ebola:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/qa.html>

What is CDC doing?

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/what-cdc-is-doing.html>



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