



COLORADO

Department of Public
Health & Environment

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 10132014 12:10

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Advisory - Ebola Update - Second Case of Ebola in the US

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies/EDs/ID Physicians/IPs/Laboratories

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Health Public Health Agencies - please forward to healthcare providers; Other recipients please distribute widely

HEALTH ALERT

Ebola Update - Second Case of Ebola in the US
October 13, 2014

KEY POINTS:

- ≡ CDC has reported that a health care worker in Texas who cared for the first patient with Ebola in the US has tested positive for Ebola. CDC along with Texas and Dallas health authorities continue to investigate. CDPHE will share new information as it becomes available.
- ≡ CDPHE strongly encourages hospitals, first responders, and health care providers to prepare in case a patient with suspected Ebola should present to a Colorado health care facility. **Preparations should include practicing donning and doffing the same personal protective equipment (PPE) that would be used during the care a patient with suspected Ebola. Running through practice drills, including use of PPE, with all staff involved with all aspects of patient care (including persons providing direct patient care, ancillary health care staff, laboratory staff, and environmental cleaning staff) is highly encouraged.**
- ≡ The slides and recording from the CDPHE statewide webinar held Friday, October 10 are now available at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/ebola>.
- ≡ All health care providers should “Ask, Isolate, Call”:
 - **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).
 - **Isolate** patients who report a travel history to an Ebola-affected country (currently Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and who are exhibiting Ebola symptoms in a private room with a private bathroom and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions (minimum: fluid resistant or impermeable gowns, facemask, eye protection, and gloves).
 - **Immediately call** CDPHE at 303-692-2700 (or after hours at 303-370-9395) if a case of Ebola is suspected.



- ≡ **Patients who have NO symptoms of Ebola but have exposure to Ebola (either high-risk or some risk) should be reported to CDPHE at 303-692-2700 (or after hours at 303-370-9395). Risk categories described below in the body of this HAN.**

Background

CDC has reported that a health care worker in Texas who cared for the first patient with Ebola in the US has tested positive for Ebola. CDC along with Texas and Dallas health authorities continue to investigate. It is unclear how this health care worker became infected with Ebola. CDPHE will share new information as it becomes available.

Recommendations and Reporting

CDPHE strongly encourages hospitals, first responders, and health care providers to prepare in case a patient with suspected Ebola should present to a Colorado health care facility. Preparations should include practicing donning and doffing the same personal protective equipment (PPE) that would be used during the care a patient with suspected Ebola. Running through practice drills, including use of PPE, with all staff involved with all aspects of patient care (including persons providing direct patient care, ancillary health care staff, laboratory staff, and environmental cleaning staff) is highly encouraged. The CDC recommendation to have a person dedicated to monitoring the donning and doffing of PPE during the care of a patient with Ebola should also be part of the practice drills.

All health care providers should “Ask, Isolate, Call”:

- ≡ **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).
- ≡ **Isolate** patients who report a travel history to an Ebola-affected country (currently Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and who are exhibiting Ebola symptoms in a private room with a private bathroom and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions (minimum: fluid resistant or impermeable gowns, facemask, eye protection, and gloves).
- ≡ **Immediately call** CDPHE at 303-692-2700 (or after hours at 303-370-9395) if a case of Ebola is suspected.

Patients who have NO symptoms of Ebola but have exposure to Ebola (either high-risk or some risk) should be reported to CDPHE at 303-692-2700 (or after hours at 303-370-9395).

- ≡ **High-risk** contact with an Ebola patient includes: percutaneous or mucous membrane exposure to blood or body fluids, direct skin contact with or exposure to blood or body fluids without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), processing blood or body fluids of a confirmed EVD patient without appropriate PPE or standard biosafety precautions, direct contact with a dead body without appropriate PPE in a country where an EVD outbreak is occurring
- ≡ Contact with an Ebola patient involving **some risk** includes: household contact or other close contact with in health care facilities or community settings
- ≡ (As per CDC guidance found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>.)

Resources

≡ The slides and recording from the CDPHE statewide webinar held Friday, October 10 are now available at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/ebola>.

≡ CDPHE has created brief resource documents containing links to CDC guidance for specific provider types including: hospitals, infection preventionists, outpatient providers, emergency departments, first responders, laboratories, and local public health agencies. CDPHE has also created “ASK” posters for use in health care facilities to remind staff to ask about travel history. These documents are located at: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/ebola>.

≡ CDC Ebola webpage is updated daily, so health partners should check this website often: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

≡ As of October 11, CDC has issued new guidance regarding the management of medical waste, found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/medical-waste-management.html>

