



Ebola Guidance for Non-Hospital Healthcare Facilities

August 28, 2019 – 3 pages *(Replaces version dated August 15, 2018)*

This memo is intended to provide general guidance for identification and initial management of suspected Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases in non-hospital facilities. This is not intended to replace specific plans or policies that may be in place for your facility or healthcare network.

This guidance follows the CDC guidance of “Identify, Isolate and Inform”.

IDENTIFY exposure history and signs or symptoms

- **Post signage for patients to encourage prompt notification of travel.** An example poster for triage/waiting room areas is available at <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/ebola/TravelPosterNC.pdf>.
- **Obtain a travel history from all patients.** Obtain a travel history from all patients presenting for care. Consider adding travel history to phone triage protocols.
- **For patients with recent travel to countries or geographic area within a country with ongoing Ebola outbreaks and stated exposure, assess for fever or other compatible symptoms.** A list of recent and current Ebola outbreaks is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/history/chronology.html>. Initial EVD symptoms may include fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, sore throat, and weakness, followed by diarrhea, vomiting, and stomach pain. Skin rash, red eyes, and internal and external bleeding may be seen in some patients. Fever may not be present early in the illness.

ISOLATE any patient with recent travel to countries or geographic area within a country with ongoing Ebola outbreaks and compatible illness

- **Avoid direct patient contact unless needed to meet emergent clinical needs.** Efforts should be made to minimize taking vital signs and other patient contact except as absolutely needed to provide acute care. Avoid sample collection, laboratory testing, and diagnostic imaging (e.g., blood draws, X-rays).
- **Lead patient to a single patient room and then close the door.** Room should contain a private bathroom or bedside commode if available. Consider placing a digital

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thermometer in the room so the patient can check his/her own temperature. Facilities should maintain a log of persons entering the patient's room. Persons accompanying the patient should be asked to wait in a separate, private room.

- **Implement additional infection prevention measures.**

1. If patient contact is required, all persons entering the patient's room should use the following personal protective equipment (PPE) at a minimum:
 - a. Impervious gown,
 - b. Surgical mask,
 - c. Face shield (or goggles if not available),
 - d. Double gloves (extended cuffs, if available),
 - e. Hair cover (optional), and
 - f. Booties/shoe covers (optional).
2. If patient contact is required, a trained observer should monitor every step of donning and doffing of PPE. If a trained observer is not available, another healthcare worker should be present to observe donning and doffing and document any potential exposures.
3. PPE recommendations differ for the hospital vs. non-hospital setting and the corresponding level of anticipated patient care. CDC recommendations for PPE in hospital settings are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>.
4. Use a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered hospital disinfectant with a label claim for a non-enveloped virus (e.g., norovirus, rotavirus, adenovirus, poliovirus) to disinfect environmental surfaces in rooms of patients with suspected Ebola virus infection.
5. Place all used PPE in a regulated medical waste bag and store in patient's room. DO NOT reuse any medical devices (e.g. thermometers) for other patients. Seal off room.

INFORM public health and prepare for safe transport

- **Contact your local health department and the state Communicable Disease Branch (919-733-3419; available 24/7).** Physicians are required to report as soon as Ebola is reasonably suspected. Public health officials can assist with transfer and laboratory testing, if necessary. Public health officials can also assist with control measures, including identification and management of potentially exposed healthcare workers or patients and providing advice on environmental disinfection and waste disposal.
- **Ensure that the receiving facility and transport team are notified before transport so that appropriate precautions can be taken.** Private transport is not recommended for patients in whom Ebola is being considered.

For any patient with recent travel to countries or geographic area within a country with ongoing Ebola outbreaks and NO exposure or fever/compatible symptoms: Provide patient care as normal.

Contact your local health department and the state Communicable Disease Branch (919-733-3419; available 24/7) with questions.

We encourage all facilities to identify an appropriate local health department contact now. A directory of local health departments is available at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/county-health-departments>.

We will continue to monitor for ongoing outbreaks and provide updates as new information becomes available. For additional information, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>.