



HEALTH ADVISORY
EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE
October 8, 2014

SITUATION:

The first case of Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola) diagnosed in the United States (US) was confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on 9/30/14 and occurred in a traveler from Liberia to Dallas, Texas. The patient fell ill on 9/24/2014, sought medical care at a Dallas hospital on 9/26/14 and was released despite a reported history of recent travel to Liberia. On 9/28/14, he returned to the same hospital and was admitted for treatment. The CDC issued a Health Advisory on 10/2/14 to advise clinicians to identify, isolate, and immediately report suspected Ebola cases to their local health department. **Early recognition and appropriate infection control precautions are critical for disease control.**

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS:

1. **CONSIDER Ebola** in patients with:
 - a. **Fever** >38.6°C (>101.5°F) **and symptoms** such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage; **AND**
 - b. **Risk factors within the past 21 days before onset** of symptoms, such as:
 - i. Residence in—or travel to—[an area where Ebola transmission is active](#) (currently defined as Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Port Harcourt and Lagos, Nigeria)*; **OR**
 - ii. Contact with blood or other body fluids or human remains of a patient known to have or suspected to have Ebola; **OR**
 - iii. Direct handling of bats or primates from [disease-endemic areas](#)*
2. **ISOLATE and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions immediately** for suspected cases. Add airborne precautions for aerosol-generating procedures.
3. **REPORT** suspect or rule-out Ebola cases **IMMEDIATELY BY PHONE** to Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) at **(510) 267-3250** during business hours or (925) 422-7595 at night or weekends.
4. **TEST** suspected cases. Collect at least 4 mL of serum, plasma, or whole blood and refrigerate. Do NOT open, centrifuge, split or otherwise process or send the specimens without first consulting with ACPHD. ACPHD will provide special instructions for specimen handling and arrange direct shipment to the CDC for testing. CDC has developed [interim guidance for laboratorians](#) (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html>) which is available on the CDC website.
5. **REVIEW** CDC Health Advisory, Evaluating Patients for Possible Ebola Virus Disease, <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00371.asp> and CDC guidance for clinicians:
 - CDC Algorithm for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-algorithm.pdf>
 - CDC Checklist for Patients Being Evaluated for Ebola in the US <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/checklist-patients-evaluated-us-evd.pdf>
 - CDC Ebola Information for Clinicians in US Healthcare Settings <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/clinician->

*For updated list of countries affected by Ebola: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html>.

Additional Information

- CDC Ebola Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>
- CDC ED Screening Criteria: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/evd-screening-criteria-hospitals.pdf>
- CDC Infection Control Recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>
- CDC Health Alert Network: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/index.asp>
- CDC Info for the Public: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/what-need-to-know-ebola.pdf>
- CDPH Ebola Page: <http://cdph.ca.gov/programs/cder/Pages/Ebola.aspx>