



HEALTH ADVISORY  
**EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE**  
October 29, 2014

**SITUATION UPDATE:**

West Africa continues to experience the largest known outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease, with high case fatality rates, in three countries: Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Spread of Ebola was contained in Nigeria, and it has been declared Ebola-free by the World Health Organization. A small number of Ebola cases continue to be diagnosed in travelers returning from West Africa to the United States, and two cases of Ebola were diagnosed in health care workers who cared for a patient with Ebola while he was critically ill in Texas. To date, other persons with a known exposure to confirmed cases in the US have not developed Ebola. As of 10/11/14, CDC is screening all travelers coming into the US from the three impacted countries, and notifying local health departments in their final destination of their arrival. Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is actively monitoring travelers arriving from these 3 countries with widespread Ebola transmission, including health care workers, for 21 days after date of departure from West Africa. All healthcare providers, including those in primary care and other outpatient settings, should be prepared to screen, identify, **and temporarily isolate** a patient presenting with fever and recent travel from one of the Ebola-affected areas\*. *The situation in the US and guidance for clinicians continues to change rapidly, so check [our website](#) for the most recent information* to appropriately identify, isolate, protect health care workers and immediately report suspected Ebola cases to your local health department. **Early recognition and appropriate infection control precautions continue to be critical for disease control.**

**ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS TO IDENTIFY SUSPECT EBOLA CASES:**

1. **SCREEN**-Establish a process to **immediately** screen all patients for Ebola exposure within the past 21 days at first contact with facility; Ebola exposure includes:
  - a. Travel to or residence in a country with widespread transmission of Ebola (Liberia, Sierra Leone, or Guinea\*), **OR**
  - b. Contact with an individual with confirmed Ebola infection, including contact with blood, body fluids, or human remains
2. **ASSESS** patients screening positive for Ebola exposure within the past 21 days for any signs or symptoms of disease
  - a. Signs and symptoms include fever (subjective or  $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained bleeding
3. **ISOLATE IMMEDIATELY** any patients with both Ebola exposure **AND** signs or symptoms of Ebola disease
  - a. Use private room or separate enclosed area with private bathroom, bedside commode or bedpans/basins
  - b. Implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions at a minimum, with airborne precautions for aerosol-generating procedures
  - c. Minimize staff and family contact to that which is essential for the assessment and immediate well-being of patient
  - d. Use dedicated equipment for any suspect case, if possible.
4. **REPORT SUSPECT EBOLA CASES IMMEDIATELY**
  - a. Report by phone to the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) at **(510) 267-3250** during business hours or **(925) 422-7595** evenings or weekends (ask for the Public Health Duty Officer)
  - b. Alert designated facility Infection Control Practitioner, if relevant
  - c. Also report patients with Ebola exposure as defined in #1. above **who do not** have signs or symptoms of Ebola
5. **USE PPE** according to current CDC guidance to the greatest extent possible
  - a. If the patient is bleeding, vomiting, or having diarrhea, or if the clinical condition warrants invasive or aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, suctioning, active resuscitation), PPE designated for the care of hospitalized patients as outlined in CDC guidance<sup>‡</sup> must be used
  - b. The minimum PPE to complete initial assessment of a stable patient **WITHOUT** these clinical conditions includes: 1) face shield, 2) surgical face mask, 3) impermeable gown, and 4) two pairs of gloves
6. **TEST** suspect cases for Ebola in coordination with ACPHD, our public health lab staff will assist with appropriate packaging and shipping of specimens to public health designated labs for Ebola virus testing.

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



**ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY  
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ACPHD will work with healthcare providers and other stakeholders to ensure suspect Ebola cases are cared for in the appropriate facilities. **All** Alameda County hospitals are expected to be prepared to screen, identify, isolate, and evaluate suspect Ebola cases. As of October 24, 2014, University of California Medical Centers have been identified to accept patients in California with **confirmed cases** of Ebola, however suspect cases will need diagnostic work up and lab confirmation prior to transport to one of these centers. Safe transportation and appropriate receiving facility notifications should be done in coordination with ACPHD and EMS. Additional guidance regarding evaluation in the outpatient setting is forthcoming.

#### **ACPHD/CDPH General Ebola Resources**

- ACPHD Ebola Page: <http://www.acphd.org/ebola.aspx>
  - Resources Page: <http://www.acphd.org/ebola/resources.aspx> - refer to this page for updated and frequently requests Ebola resources and guidance documents.
  - For Ebola Questions not addressed on our webpage email [alcoebola@acgov.org](mailto:alcoebola@acgov.org) [Subject line: Inquiry-Facility-Date]
- ACPHD Health Alerts: <http://www.acphd.org/health-alerts.aspx>
- Alameda County EMS Medical Director Ebola Memo: <http://www.acphd.org/media/366959/ebola-memo-10-2014.pdf> 10/24/14\*
- CDPH Ebola Page: <http://cdph.ca.gov/programs/cder/Pages/Ebola.aspx>
  - Public Ebola Information Hotline: (855) 421-5921
  - Flyer to post in waiting rooms for screening: <http://eziz.org/assets/docs/IMM-1144.pdf>

#### **CDC Updated Resources - date posted noted below\*:**

- General Ebola Information/Updates
  - Ebola webpage: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>
- Information for Healthcare Workers and Settings: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html>
  - [Ebola PPE for Hospitalized Patients](#) 10/20/14\*
  - Algorithm for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-algorithm.pdf>
  - Emergency Department (ED) management: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/ed-management-patients-possible-ebola.html> 10/25/14\*
    - Algorithm for ED management: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/Ebola/pdf/ed-algorithm-management-patients-possible-Ebola.pdf>
- Laboratory and specimen collection guidance: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html> 10/20/14\*

#### **Medical Waste Management Resources:**

- CDPH Ebola Waste Management Interim Guidelines: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Documents/Ebola%20medical%20waste%20management-CDPH%20interim%20guidance.pdf> 10/16/14\*
- CDC Ebola Associated Waste Management: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/medical-waste-management.html> 10/22/14\*