

Ebola Preparedness Checklist for Faith-based Health Leaders

As leaders in faith- and community-based organizations, you are in a unique position to help people in your congregations, neighborhoods, and communities stay healthy, manage anxieties, and fight stigma about Ebola. Very few people in the United States are or will be at risk for getting Ebola. This checklist offers guidance for faith- and community-based organizations to address community concerns about Ebola and to prepare for the possibility of an Ebola patient in your community.

1. Get accurate information about Ebola and share that information.

Completed	In Progress	Not Started	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visit www.cdc.gov/ebola for the latest information about Ebola.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Share up-to-date, reliable Ebola information by distributing posters, factsheets, and other materials at gatherings and via social media. Use what you know works for your congregations and communities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare to counter misinformation and rumors with facts.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand what kind of health monitoring congregants and community members returning from West Africa will undergo. For more detailed information, see CDC's Interim Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Persons with Ebola Virus Disease. http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage people to keep informed by getting information from their state and local health departments.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If relevant to your work, provide your organizations' leadership and volunteers with information about working with West African communities in the United States. You can find helpful handouts for them at http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/resources/factsheets.html .

2. Include social and spiritual wellness in responding to people's needs.

Completed	In Progress	Not Started	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage and express empathy with your family, congregation, and community. Lead by example by showing compassion and speaking up against stigma.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Be sensitive to the fears and anxieties many people have about Ebola. The American Psychological Association's fact sheet, Managing your fear about Ebola (http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/ebola-fear.aspx) can help.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan for ways that you can support anyone who is sick with Ebola without being in direct contact with them. You should take every precaution to avoid direct contact with someone who is sick with Ebola (unless you are also part of the medical treatment team).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate how to get mental health services for your staff, congregation, and people in the communities that you serve. The SAMHSA Behavioral Health Locator http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/ and The National Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990 can help you and those in need find services.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

3. Plan for the impact of a local case of Ebola.

When someone is sick and may have been exposed to Ebola, advise them to call in advance to tell the doctor about recent travel and symptoms BEFORE going to the office or emergency room. Advance notice will help the doctor provide care and will also protect other people who may be in the doctor's office or hospital.

Someone at risk for Ebola should seek medical care **IMMEDIATELY** if they develop elevated temperature or fever or symptoms, such as severe headache, muscle pain, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, or unexplained bleeding or bruising.

Completed	In Progress	Not Started	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advise a person suspected of being sick with Ebola to limit contact with other people when they go to the doctor, not to use public transit, and not to go anywhere else.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consider staffing needs for managing increased inquiries, holding additional community meetings, and coordinating support for affected families.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Understand the roles of federal, state, and local public health agencies and emergency responders. Know what to expect and what not to expect from each in the event of an Ebola case in your area. http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/state-local-health-department-contacts.html
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify potential partners and/or strengthen relationships with existing partners. Connect with networks of potential partners like the National Disaster Interfaiths Network, National Voluntary Organizations Active In Disasters, and state and local public health systems.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assign a point of contact to arrange communication between your organization and your partners. Let them know what your organization is able to contribute.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan to coordinate with partners to meet the needs of those who are sick with Ebola as well as their families and friends.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meet with partners to share and line up their communication and outreach plans with your plans.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Evaluate your organization's usual activities, practices, rites, and rituals from a health perspective. Identify ways these practices might be adapted to reduce disease transmission in general. Work with your organization's leadership to determine which of these practices should be implemented.

4. Set up policies for staff to follow if there is a confirmed or suspected case of Ebola in your congregation or community.

Completed	In Progress	Not Started	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Work with the local health department to make certain that staff and volunteers have the information they need to address concerns, including their own concerns.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Set up policies allowing for staff leave if they need to seek medical care.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Set up policies for working from home if any staff are quarantined and still want to work.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide resources to support and inform your staff, members, and people in the communities that you serve.