

Identify, Isolate, Inform:

Ambulatory Care Evaluation of Patients with Possible Ebola Disease (Ebola)



NOTE: If a patient calls the ambulatory care facility to schedule an appointment for care and has Ebola risk factors and symptoms, tell them to: stay where they are; avoid contact with household members; use a separate bathroom (if available); and call the health department. Your facility must also notify the health department. If the patient needs emergency care, call 911 and tell EMS about the patient's Ebola risk factors so they can arrive with proper protective equipment.

Background

- Most febrile patients in ambulatory settings do not have Ebola Disease (Ebola).
- Early Ebola symptoms are similar to those seen with other febrile illnesses (e.g. malaria); triage and evaluation processes should consider and systematically assess patients for the possibility of Ebola.
- The transmission risk posed by Ebola patients with early, dry symptoms is lower than the risk from a patient with severe disease.

Identify travel history:

Has patient been in a country affected by the 2026 Ebola Outbreak in the past 21 days?



Continue with usual triage, assessment, and care.



Identify signs and symptoms:

Fever (subjective or $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ or 38.0°C) or any Ebola-compatible symptoms: headache, muscle pain, weakness, fatigue, sore throat, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or hemorrhage.



- A. Notify health department that patient is seeking care at your facility.
- B. Continue with usual triage, assessment and care.
- C. Advise patient to continue to monitor for fever and symptoms and notify the health department if they develop symptoms within 21 days after leaving the affected country.



Isolate patient immediately:

- Place patient in private room or area, preferably enclosed with private bathroom or covered commode that is not used by anyone else.
- Only essential personnel wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) (See below*) should enter the patient's room.
- Avoid unnecessary direct contact.
- Use dedicated equipment to minimize transmission risk.



Inform Health Department:

- Contact the relevant health department IMMEDIATELY ([EPI ON CALL](#)).
- The health department can further assist with assessment of [Ebola risk factors](#).
 - A. If transfer to a designated facility is indicated, coordinate with health department staff to notify the receiving facility about the transfer and make arrangements for safe transport to the receiving facility designated by public health officials.
 - B. If the clinical situation is an emergency, call 911 and tell them the patient's Ebola risk factors so EMS personnel can arrive with proper PPE. Also notify the receiving facility.
- Consult the health department before cleaning up blood or body fluids or discarding waste. Any reusable equipment should not be reused until it has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected.

*PPE in the ambulatory care setting:

- At a minimum, healthcare personnel entering the room should use PPE including: face shield & surgical face mask, fluid-resistant gown, and two pairs of gloves. [Additional PPE](#) is recommended if the patient is clinically unstable or exhibiting "wet" symptoms including vomiting, diarrhea, or bleeding.
- The staff designated to care for the suspect case should refrain from direct interaction with other staff and patients in the office until PPE has been safely removed in a designated, confined area. Review examples of safe donning and removal of PPE at: [PPE: Clinically Stable Patients Suspected to have VHE](#).

