

Ebola

The recommendations on this page are no longer in effect and will not be updated.



Checklist for Healthcare Coalitions for Ebola Preparedness

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), in addition to other federal, state, and local members, aim to increase understanding of the Ebola virus disease (Ebola) and encourage community-level preparedness for U.S. Healthcare Coalitions¹ and their members in managing patients with Ebola and other infectious diseases. We are encouraging healthcare coalitions to work with their members to ensure they can detect, protect, and respond to a person under investigation (PUI) for Ebola. Many of the signs and symptoms of Ebola are non-specific and similar to those of other common infectious diseases such as malaria, which is commonly seen in West Africa. Transmission of Ebola can be prevented by using appropriate infection control measures.

This checklist is intended to enhance collective preparedness and response by highlighting key areas for healthcare coalitions to review in preparation for a PUI for Ebola at a coalition member's facility. The checklist provides practical and specific suggestions to ensure healthcare coalition members are able to **detect** possible Ebola cases, **protect** employees and patients, and **respond** appropriately.

Healthcare coalitions should encourage their members to review infection control policies and procedures, and suggest that they incorporate plans for administrative, environmental, and communication measures. Healthcare coalitions should also define, along with their members, work practices that will be required to detect persons possibly infected with Ebola or other infectious diseases to prevent spread throughout the community and manage the impact on patients, healthcare facilities, and staff; and develop communication protocols to notify and consult with local and state public health authorities regarding patient testing and management.

The checklist format is not intended to set forth mandatory requirements or establish national standards. It is a list of activities that can help each healthcare coalition member prepare. Each healthcare coalition is different and should adapt this checklist to meet their needs. In this checklist, healthcare personnel refers to all persons, paid and unpaid, working in healthcare settings who have the potential for exposure to patients and/or to infectious materials, including body fluids (blood, urine, feces, semen, sweat, etc.), contaminated medical supplies and equipment, or contaminated environmental surfaces.

HHS has created a suite of detailed checklists you may consider sharing with your coalition members. (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html>)

CDC is available 24/7 for consultation by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 770-488-7100 or via email at eocreport@cdc.gov.

¹ See <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/Pages/overview.aspx>

PREPARE TO DETECT

DETERMINE IF THERE IS A ROLE FOR THE COALITION TO:	Yes	No
Review guidance about Active Monitoring and Direct Active Monitoring of passengers arriving from countries where Ebola is present. Stay informed about state and local public health implementation of this guidance.		
Keep informed about the hospital tiered approach and guidance for preparing Ebola Frontline Healthcare Facilities , Ebola Assessment Hospitals and Ebola Treatment Centers .		
Review current guidance and resources about identification of persons under investigation (PUI) for Ebola. Provide information to facilities so they can train staff.		
Encourage coalition members to develop protocols for notifying the coalition's identified points of contact, other member facilities, local and state public health officials, and community partners of any PUI for Ebola.		
Regularly schedule meetings with members to assist Ebola response planning efforts that prepare and prioritize assets, and coordinate potential services of each partner.		
Encourage coalition members to participate in exercises (e.g., discussion tabletop, tracers) that detect gaps (e.g., planning, staffing, training) in the coalition's ability to respond to a possible or confirmed case or a cluster of Ebola cases and other infectious diseases.		
Encourage facilities to conduct no-notice drills, spot checks and inspections of ED and triage staff to determine their ability to incorporate and practice screening procedures, and initiate notification, isolation, and PPE for their facilities.		
Have regular meetings with coalition members to coordinate messaging around Ebola and ensure members are aware of the most recent CDC Ebola guidance .		
Request that health departments share the latest guidance on infection control and case management.		
Share best practices and information so members can support each other related to detection.		

PREPARE TO PROTECT

DETERMINE IF THERE IS A ROLE FOR THE COALITION TO:	Yes	No
Establish a protocol for coordinating situational awareness activities during a potential Ebola outbreak.		
Promote consistent protocols for all members in waste management and hazardous material collection.		
Encourage consistency among members for pathogen handling by laboratory personnel .		
Promote consistency in human resource guidance and policies (e.g., travel, furlough, monitoring, self-health screening) for all members.		
Create, or update, a real-time, integrated inventory management system to help track available resources and PPE .		
Update resource assessment of infection-control capabilities of every facility in the coalition.		
Review and discuss your community's protocols for handling a suspected or confirmed Ebola case.		

Review and discuss Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for Management of Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Virus Disease in the United States .		
Review and discuss the need for inter-facility patient transfers, and develop inter-facility transfer protocols as needed.		
Facilitate a coordination call with members to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the members in reviewing protocols for pre-hospital and inter-facility transfer of patients, Review infectious disease procedures and reporting requirements, and Review protocols, coordination, and exercise/test the ability to share relevant health data between key stakeholders, coalition members, public health, emergency management, etc. 		
Share best practices and information so members can support each other related to protection.		

PREPARE TO RESPOND

DETERMINE IF THERE IS A ROLE FOR THE COALITION TO:	Yes	No
Develop and/or test: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency functions, Incident management system, and Crisis communications that are coordinated among members and with local and state public health departments. 		
Share best practices and information so members can support each other related to responses.		

Quick Resources List

CDC has several resources and references to help healthcare facilities prepare for a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola, and more resources are in development. Information and guidance may change as experts learn more about Ebola. You should frequently monitor [CDC's Ebola Homepage](#) and review CDC's [Information for Healthcare Workers and Settings](#).

Stay informed! Visit the following sources to receive updates about Ebola (some may need subscription):

- CDC [Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#)
- CDC [Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity \(COCA\)](#)
- CDC [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#)
- U.S. Department of Labor's [Occupational Safety & Health Administration Newsletter](#)

Regularly check [CDC's website for Information for Healthcare Workers and Settings](#) for the most current information. State and local health departments with questions should contact the CDC Emergency Operations Center (770-488-7100 or eocreport@cdc.gov).