

Ebola

The information in this document is no longer current and will not be updated.



Health Care Provider Preparedness Checklist for Ebola Virus Disease

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) 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 partners, aim to increase understanding and encourage the preparedness for U.S. hospitals managing patients with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

The following checklist highlights some key areas health care providers to review in preparation that a person with EVD arrives for medical care. The checklist format is not intended to set forth mandatory requirements or establish national standards. In this checklist healthcare personnel (HCP) refers all persons, paid and unpaid, working in healthcare settings who have the potential for exposure to patients and/or to infectious materials, including blood and body fluids, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, and contaminated environmental surfaces. HCP include, but are not limited to, physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, students and trainees, laboratory personnel, contractual personnel, emergency medical services personnel, and persons not directly involved in patient care (e.g., house-keeping, laundry).

*More detailed checklists including practical and specific suggestions to ensure your hospital is able to **detect** possible EVD cases, **protect** your employees, and **respond** appropriately can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/hospital-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf>*

- Stay up to date on the latest information about risk factors, signs, symptoms, and diagnostic testing for EVD (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>)
- Be alert for patients with signs and symptoms of EVD or who may have traveled recently to one of the affected countries (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/symptoms/index.html>)
- Review facility infection control policies for consistency with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Known or Suspected EVD in U.S. Hospitals (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>) to include recommendations for:
 - Assessment and triage of patients with suspected EVD
 - Patient placement
 - Visitor management and exclusion
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare personnel
- Promptly apply standard, contact, and droplet precautions for any suspected or confirmed EVD patients before transport or upon entry to the facility, and triage using the facility plans (e.g., place in private room) for evaluation (<http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007isolationPrecautions.html>)
- Know how to report a potential EVD case to your facility infection control leads
- Know the points of contact within your facility responsible for communicating with state and local public health officials. Remember: EVD is a nationally notifiable disease and must be immediately

reported to local, state, and federal public health authorities. A list of state epidemiologists can be found here: (<http://www.cste.org/?page=StateEpi>)

- Know who to notify in your facility after an unprotected exposure (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE at the time of patient contact or through direct contact with blood or body fluids) to a suspected or confirmed EVD patient.
- Know how and where to seek medical evaluation following an unprotected exposure.
- Do not report to work if you become ill after an unprotected exposure (i.e. not wearing recommended PPE at the time of patient contact or through direct contact to blood or body fluids) to a patient with EVD.

Additional Resources

Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in U.S. Hospitals

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>

Safe Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in U.S. Hospitals

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/patient-management-us-hospitals.html>

Guidance for Safe Handling of Human Remains of Ebola Patients at U.S. Hospitals and Mortuaries

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-safe-handling-human-remains-ebola-patients-us-hospitals-mortuaries.html>

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

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-emergency-medical-services-systems-911-public-safety-answering-points-management-patients-known-suspected-united-states.html>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

phe.gov