



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Public Health – Center for Community Preparedness

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has newly released information for the 2014 Ebola Outbreak with guidance at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

Early recognition is critical to controlling the spread of Ebola Virus Disease. Health care personnel and health officials in Louisiana should:

- Increase vigilance in inquiring about a history of travel to West Africa in the 21 days before illness onset for any patient presenting with fever or other symptoms consistent with Ebola;
- Isolate patients who report a travel history to an Ebola-affected country (currently Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and who are exhibiting Ebola symptoms in a private room with a private bathroom and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions (gowns, facemask, eye protection, and gloves); and
- Immediately notify the Louisiana Office of Public Health at 504-568-8313 or after hours at 800-256-2748 to discuss a possible exposure or report a suspected case.

Health care personnel should elicit the patient's travel history and consider the possibility of Ebola in patients who present with fever, myalgia, severe headache, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, or unexplained bleeding or bruising. Should the patient report a history of recent travel to one of the affected West African countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and exhibit such symptoms, immediate action should be taken. The Ebola algorithm for the evaluation of a returned traveler and the checklist for evaluation of a patient being evaluated for Ebola are attached. Print these attached documents and post within emergency and clinical areas of your facility.

Patients in whom a diagnosis of Ebola is being considered should be isolated in a single room (with a private bathroom), and healthcare personnel should follow standard, contact, and droplet precautions, including the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Infection control personnel and the local health department should be immediately contacted for consultation.

The following guidance documents provide additional information about clinical presentation and clinical course of Ebola virus disease, infection control, and patient management:

Guidelines for clinicians in U.S. healthcare settings are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/clinician-information-us-healthcare-settings.html>.

Guidelines for infection prevention control for hospitalized patients with known or suspected Ebola in U.S. hospitals are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html> .

Guidelines for safe management of patients with Ebola in U.S. hospitals are at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/patient-management-us-hospitals.html> .

The case definitions for persons under investigation (PUI) for Ebola, probable cases, and confirmed cases as well as classification of exposure risk levels are at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html>.

Persons at highest risk of developing infection are:

- those who have had direct contact with the blood and body fluids of an individual diagnosed with Ebola – this includes any person who provided care for an Ebola patient, such as a healthcare provider or family member not adhering to recommended infection control precautions (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE)
- those who have had close physical contact with an individual diagnosed with Ebola
- those who lived with or visited the Ebola-diagnosed patient while he or she was ill.

Persons who have been exposed, but who are asymptomatic, should be instructed to monitor their health for the development of fever or symptoms for 21 days after the last exposure. Guidelines for monitoring and movement of persons who have been exposed to Ebola are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>.

The CDC website has the most current information about the epidemic and guidance for Ebola Virus Disease response at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/> For general discussion about Ebola Virus Disease contact Dr. Frank Welch at frank.welch@la.gov. Immediately notify the Louisiana Office of Public Health at 504-568-8313 or after hours at 800-256-2748 to discuss a possible exposure, report a suspected case and arrange for laboratory testing.