



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH, FAAP
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY #323

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EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) UPDATE #2

Please distribute to Healthcare Providers, Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Directors of Pharmacy, Laboratory Service, and all patient care areas.

SUMMARY

- The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) are advising health care providers and facilities to review the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) health advisory available at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00371.asp> regarding recommendations for evaluating patients for possible EVD. Main points from this advisory are reminders to:
 - 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 > 101.5 °F/38.6°C and other symptoms consistent with EVD such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage,
 - Isolate patients who report a travel history to an Ebola-affected country (currently Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and who are exhibiting EVD symptoms in a private room with a private bathroom and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions (gowns, facemask, eye protection, and gloves); and
 - Immediately report suspect EVD cases to the ECDOH Epidemiology and Surveillance Office at (716) 858-7697 during normal business hours and (716) 961-7898 after hours, weekends, and holidays.
- **Travel history should be asked of all patients who present at initial presentation in EDs or reception in primary or urgent care settings. Signage asking patients to provide travel history should also be prominently posted. Rapid recognition of possible EVD cases is critical to protecting health and safety.**

- Health care providers and facilities are advised to review previously released CDC and NYSDOH guidance on EVD (links listed below) and utilize the testing algorithm decision guide included in the NYSDOH EDV Update #2 available at http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola/docs/doh_advisory_2.pdf
- Hospitals and other health care providers are strongly encouraged to perform drills in the early identification and isolation of suspected EVD patients to review plans for hospitalization of a suspect or confirmed EVD patient, and to identify and train staff who would provide care to a suspect or confirmed EVD patient. The drills should include emergency department staff and rehearse procedures for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Hospitals, urgent care facilities and other health care providers are advised to post the attached Ebola Virus Disease Screening Form in all medical staff areas.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUSLY RELEASED CDC AND NYSDOH EVD GUIDANCE

EPIDEMIOLOGY, CLINICAL INFORMATION, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH TESTING FOR EVD

- Background on the clinical presentation and clinical course of EVD is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/clinician-information-us-healthcare-settings.html>.
- The current CDC case definition for EVD is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html> and an updated map of affected countries is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html>.
- Updated interim algorithms for the evaluation of suspected EVD patients available at http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola/docs/doh_advisory_2.pdf.
- Procedures for reporting suspected EVD patients are available at https://apps.health.ny.gov/pub/ctrldocs/alrtview/postings/Notification_17057.pdf.
 - Providers and facilities should note that unlike other diseases where reporting is based on the residence of the patient, suspected cases of EVD must also be immediately reported to the local health department in the county where the facility/provider is located, to discuss the case and to seek approval for EVD testing, if appropriate.
- If EVD testing is approved, NYSDOH will work directly with the facility on requirements for collection and transport. The basic triple packaging system available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html#packaging>, which consists of a primary container (a sealable specimen bag) wrapped with absorbent material, secondary container (watertight, leak-proof), and an outer shipping package, will be used. Hospital laboratories should work directly with staff from the NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory before packaging any specimens.
- Testing is likely to be performed at the NYSDOH Wadsworth laboratory and transportation will be performed by public health or other appropriate staff. Additional information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html#update2>.

INFECTION CONTROL AND SAFE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED EVD

- CDC's Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in U.S. Hospitals is available <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>

- NYSDOH and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Laboratory Guidelines For Handling Specimens From Suspected or Confirmed EVD Patients is available at https://apps.health.ny.gov/pub/ctrldocs/alrtview/postings/Notification_17301.pdf.
- CDC Guidance for Safe Handling of Human Remains of Ebola Patients in U. S. Hospitals and Mortuaries is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-safe-handling-human-remains-ebola-patients-us-hospitals-mortuaries.html>.

EVD PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

- Detailed CDC EVD preparedness checklists are available for a variety of healthcare settings and providers
 - Hospitals: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/hospital-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf>.
 - Non-hospital healthcare facilities: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/healthcare-facility-checklist-for-ebola.pdf>.
 - Healthcare providers: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/healthcare-provider-checklist-for-ebola.pdf>.
 - Emergency Medical Services: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ems-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf>.

REPORTING AND CONTACT PHONE NUMBER

All suspect EVD cases should be reported immediately by telephone to the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) Epidemiology and Surveillance Office at (716) 858-7697 during normal business hours and (716) 961-7898 after hours, weekends and holidays.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The CDC's Ebola Website contains the most up-to-date information about the outbreak and has specific materials for healthcare workers, airline personnel, travelers, and the general public. It can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>.

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

The Erie County Department of Health does not provide medical advice. The information provided on the Erie County Department of Health website is not an attempt to practice medicine and is not intended as a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. It is for informational purposes only. Always seek the advice of your personal physician or other qualified health provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition or issue. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of the content found on the Erie County Department of Health website or this correspondence. The ECDOH Health Alert & Advisory System is an e-mail notification system designed to alert community partners about important health related information. You can sign up to receive alerts & advisories at <http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=node/59>.