

**Health
Update:****Ebola Virus
Disease (EVD)****Health Update
October 23, 2014****FROM: GAIL VASTERLING
DIRECTOR****SUBJECT: Update 2: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**

This Health Update provides information on new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by healthcare workers involved in the care of patients with Ebola virus disease (EVD). It also provides current guidance on submission of specimens for Ebola virus testing, and information on the monitoring of travelers arriving from Ebola-impacted countries in western Africa.

October 23, 2014

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.health.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

New CDC Guidance on PPE

On October 20, 2014, CDC issued *Guidance on Personal Protective Equipment To Be Used by Healthcare Workers During Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease in U.S. Hospitals, Including Procedures for Putting On (Donning) and Removing (Doffing)*. The guidance focuses on specific PPE that health care workers should use, and offers detailed step by step instructions for how to put the equipment on and take it off safely. Recent experience from safely treating patients with Ebola at Emory University Hospital, Nebraska Medical Center and National Institutes of Health Clinical Center is reflected in the document.

The guidance contains the following key principles:

1. Prior to working with Ebola patients, all healthcare workers involved in the care of these patients must have received repeated training and have demonstrated competency in performing all Ebola-related infection control practices and procedures, and specifically in donning/doffing proper PPE.
2. While working in PPE, healthcare workers caring for Ebola patients should have no skin exposed.
3. The overall safe care of Ebola patients in a facility must be overseen by an onsite manager at all times, and each step of every PPE donning/doffing procedure must be supervised by a trained observer to ensure proper completion of established PPE protocols.

Included in the guidance is the recommendation that healthcare workers caring for Ebola patients use a powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) or an N95 or higher respirator in the event of an unexpected aerosol-generating procedure.

The guidance is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>.

In addition, CDC has developed a related fact sheet which is found at <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/fs1020-ebola-personal-protective-equipment.html>.

For links to additional information and guidance on infection control in health care settings, go to <http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/med/hemorrhagic.php#infection>.

Office of the Director
912 Wildwood
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Telephone: (800) 392-0272
Fax: (573) 751-6041

Web site: <http://www.health.mo.gov>

Submission of Specimens for Ebola Virus Testing

Recently, the Missouri State Laboratory (SPHL) has been approved to conduct Ebola testing by the CDC. Consultation with DHSS is required before samples can be collected and sent to the SPHL. Ebola samples must not be sent directly to the SPHL without DHSS consultation and approval. DHSS' Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention is available to consult on and approve the submission of samples at 573/751-6113 or 800/392-0272 (24/7).

Monitoring of Travelers Arriving from Ebola-Impacted Countries in Western Africa

The CDC announced that public health authorities will begin active post-arrival monitoring of travelers whose travel originates in Liberia, Sierra Leone, or Guinea. Post arrival monitoring is an added safeguard that complements the existing exit screening protocols, which require all outbound passengers from the affected West African countries to be screened for fever, Ebola symptoms, and contact with individuals infected with Ebola. These enhanced screening protocols will occur at the five U.S. airports that will now receive all travelers from the affected countries. Low risk asymptomatic travelers from these regions will be allowed to travel to their final point of destination in the U.S. Travelers will receive a CARE (Check And Report Ebola) kit at the airport that contains a tracking log and pictorial description of symptoms, a thermometer, guidance for how to monitor with thermometer, a wallet card on who to contact if they have symptoms and that they can present to a health care provider, and a health advisory infographic on monitoring of their health for three weeks. DHSS will be notified when a traveler is arriving in Missouri and will immediately notify Local Public Health authorities to coordinate health monitoring activities. Health monitoring of any travelers meeting these screening criteria will consist of temperature and symptoms evaluations, daily for 21 days.

Links to comprehensive information and clinical guidance on EVD are available at:

<http://health.mo.gov/emergencies/ert/med/hemorrhagic.php>.

Questions can be directed to DHSS' Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 573/751-6113 or 800/392-0272 (24/7).