

Health Update:

Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Ebola Virus Disease and Other Dangerous Diseases

February 19, 2019

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.

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SUBJECT: Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Ebola Virus Disease and Other Dangerous Diseases

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has been monitoring reports from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) pertaining to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak declared on August 1, 2018, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). As reported in WHO's *Disease Outbreak News* on February 7, 2019, the global risk level for the spread of Ebola from this outbreak remains low. However, the fact that the outbreak is ongoing serves as a reminder to Missouri healthcare providers to review infection prevention and control procedures as they relate to communicable infections, including EVD. CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) has shared the following information update with state healthcare-associated infection programs to help guide preparedness efforts.

Initial Triage of Patients

The following are steps that facilities should implement as a routine part of triage to quickly identify, isolate, and inform public health authorities about patients who may have potentially dangerous communicable infections:

- Ask about and document international travel histories at initial triage. This information can alert healthcare personnel to the possibility of communicable infections, such as viral hemorrhagic fevers or emerging respiratory viruses, and other health conditions, such as malaria, that need specific treatment.
- Identify patients who have fever and other signs and symptoms of infection and might warrant isolation pending further evaluation.
- With regard to reporting of communicable diseases, post information for contacting infection control personnel and the local public health agency in easily visible locations.

Current Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Ebola Virus Disease in U.S. Healthcare Facilities

CDC recommendations for infection prevention and control for patients with confirmed EVD or persons under investigation (PUIs) for EVD in U.S. healthcare facilities have been recently reviewed and are considered up to date. These recommendations are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/index.html>.

Two important points:

- Separate personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance remains in place for the management of:
 - a) Clinically stable PUIs
<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/guidance-clinically-stable-puis.html>
 - b) Confirmed Ebola patients or clinically unstable PUIs
<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/guidance.html>

- A PPE Calculator Tool (<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/calculator.html>) is available to assist healthcare facilities in determining the appropriate supply of PPE to have on hand to manage a PUI or patient with confirmed EVD.

The Regional Treatment Network for Ebola and Other Special Pathogens

Healthcare facilities and public health officials should be familiar with the U.S. Regional Treatment Network for Ebola and Other Special Pathogens (see link in the Additional Resources section, below). This includes facilities understanding their designated role as part of the network, continuing to be willing to serve in that capacity, and maintaining preparedness as a frontline facility, state-designated assessment hospital, state-designated treatment center, or HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)-designated regional treatment center.

- Healthcare facilities and public health officials should have established plans for how PUIs or EVD patients are to be managed and referred.
- Officials with responsibility for infectious disease epidemiology and healthcare infection control should be in communication with their preparedness counterparts to ensure mutual understanding of the designations and preparedness status of assessment and treatment centers in their jurisdictions.
- The National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC) (see link in the Additional Resources section, below) is co-funded by ASPR and CDC. NETEC has additional online resources and a blog, and is available to provide on-site readiness assessments to hospitals for Ebola and other special pathogens.

Additional Resources

- The “**Missouri Ebola Virus Disease Response Plan**” revised in February 2019 is available in the EMResource document library. Please check with your organization’s Emergency Preparedness staff or your regional healthcare coalition for access to EMResource.
- Main CDC EVD portal: <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>.
- WHO Ebola situation reports: Democratic Republic of the Congo <https://www.who.int/ebola/situation-reports/drc-2018/en/>
- Regional Treatment Network for Ebola and Other Special Pathogens (ASPR) <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/reports/Documents/RETN-Ebola-Report-508.pdf>
- National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC) <https://netec.org/>
- CDC Travel Health Notice for the current outbreak in the DRC (including special recommendations for healthcare personnel and organizations sponsoring healthcare personnel in the outbreak area) <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-democratic-republic-of-the-congo>
- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has an open-label clinical trial, entitled “Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in Individuals at Potential Occupational Risk for Ebola Virus Exposure” or “PREPARE,” to vaccinate adult volunteers (including deploying healthcare personnel and other responders) against Ebola. Study sites are at NIH in Bethesda, MD, and Emory University in Atlanta, GA. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02788227>

DHSS will continue to monitor the ongoing EVD outbreak in the DRC and share any additional guidance provided by CDC and WHO. Questions should be directed to DHSS’ Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 573-751-6113.