

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 03, 2014

TO: IDPH Ebola Guidance Distribution Group

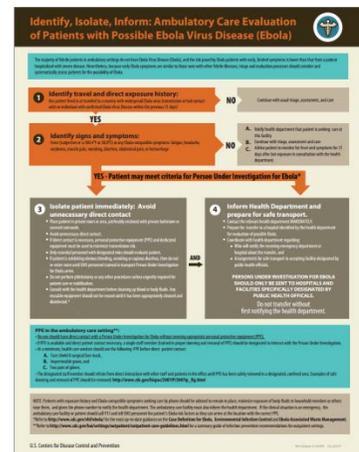
FROM: LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director

SUBJECT: Re: Interim Guidance for Ambulatory/Outpatient Care Evaluation of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease

See attached flowchart from CDC: *Identify, Isolate, Inform: Ambulatory Care Evaluation of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease*

IDPH encourages Illinois ambulatory and outpatient care settings to adopt the CDC approach to evaluating patients with possible Ebola Virus Disease.

Some additional guidance and Illinois-specific information to accompany the flowchart is provided below.



1. Identify Exposure (including Travel) History

- Ensure that triage staff know which countries currently have widespread Ebola transmission and ask patients about these countries **by name**.
- As of 11/3/14, countries with widespread Ebola transmission are **Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone**. Patients who have traveled to other African countries do not require isolation.
- Countries included in this list will change as the outbreak evolves; see www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html for a current list of countries with widespread transmission.

2. Isolate Patient

- Triage staff should maintain at least a 3-foot distance from patient and immediately alert responsible clinician when patient is placed in isolation area/examination room.
- Restrict staff entry to essential personnel.
- Put a mask in the room for the patient to wear if he/she is coughing.



- Remain calm: Remember that Ebola is not spread through the air. It spreads through direct contact with a symptomatic infected person's body fluids. Other diseases (e.g. malaria) are likely to cause fever in a returning traveler, and travelers may seek care for unrelated conditions.

3. Assess Patient

- Clinician should maintain at least a 3-foot distance from patient and should not touch patient during initial assessment. See attached algorithm for recommended PPE; wear the best available PPE in your ambulatory setting.
- If feasible, have patient take his/her own temperature (e.g. with a disposable single-use thermometer)
- Clinician should obtain detailed and accurate history
 - Confirm travel history, if applicable: specific locations and dates
 - Confirm symptom history: fever, headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or hemorrhage (note onset dates or presence of other symptoms)
 - Evaluate potential Ebola exposures: in travelers, while in the affected country, any exposure to health care settings, funeral attendance, or contact with ill or deceased individuals in the last 21 days

4. Inform Local Health Department

4a. Patient with compatible travel history or Ebola exposure and symptoms potentially consistent with Ebola:

- IMMEDIATELY
 - Call your local public health department. The local public health department should already be aware of and monitoring travelers.
 - If unable to reach, call the Illinois Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-782-7860 or 217-782-7860 (24 hours/7 days) and ask to speak to the duty officer.
- Do not touch patient or perform any procedures unless absolutely necessary. Follow instructions on the attached algorithm.
- If patient is not clinically stable, call 911 and inform the operator that a suspected Ebola patient needs transfer, AND immediately contact the health department.
- Persons under investigation for Ebola should only be sent to hospitals and facilities specifically designated by public health officials; do NOT transfer patients without talking to the health department first.

4b. Patient with compatible travel history or Ebola exposure in the last 21 days but none of the above symptoms (e.g. presenting for unrelated illness):

- Call your local public health department to help ensure the routine 21 days of monitoring are completed by the health department.

4c. Patient WITHOUT compatible travel history or Ebola exposure, including patients who traveled to other unaffected countries in Africa or who traveled more than 21 days ago:

- Discontinue precautions, manage patient in routine manner