



Yolo County Department of Health Services



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DATE: November 6, 2014

TO: All Prehospital Personnel and Providers
All Public Safety Personnel
Base Hospital Personnel
Emergency Department Physicians and Nurse Liaisons

FROM: David Barnes, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Kristin Weivoda, EMS Administrator

SUBJECT: Ebola and Emerging Infectious Disease, Update # 3

MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide update and current guidance for responding to potential Ebola infected patient.

It is the responsibility of all transport and non-transport providers, first responders, and public safety agencies to ensure that their personnel receive this information.

Recognition of an Ebola risk is the most important aspect of field management. When responding to a call for which there is a complaint of fever and abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, or muscle aches it is important to next ask if there has been travel within the past three weeks to the African counties of Liberia, Sierra Leon, or Guinea. If there are positive symptoms and travel history, the patient should be considered to be potentially infected with Ebola until laboratory testing proves otherwise.

On-scene safety management for an Ebola risk includes:

- **If the patient is identified with a positive screening history for risk of Ebola infection prior to entering, proceed as follows:**
 - Limit the number of personnel who come in contact with the patient, or who enter into the same housing structure with the patient.
 - Fire agency first responders and public safety personnel will remain outside to serve as Incident Command, scene control, and communications.
 - Notify the Yolo County Department of Health Services/EMS Duty Officer at (530) 321-3620.
 - “Two-out” personnel (non-PPE) will remain outside of the door/room and make no physical contact with the patient or the immediate surroundings (staying 6 feet away from any bodily fluids).
 - The ambulance crew will don approved PPE, and assume patient care.

- Use the buddy system for “two-in” personnel when donning of PPE for patient contact.

- **If the patient has not been identified prior to entering, but is complaining of any of the key symptoms (fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, weakness, or muscle aches), proceed as follows:**
 - Limit the number of personnel who come in contact with the patient, or who enter into the same housing structure with the patient.
 - First arriving unit on scene: One or two personnel will enter the scene area (room, house, and clinic), don appropriate PPE for si/sx of the patient. All other personnel remaining outside until the level of risk is determined from initial history taking.
 - Do not implement any procedures, or make physical contact. Remain six (6) feet from the potential patient during initial screening.
 - Ask the screening questions:
 - Have you or any of your close contacts traveled to West Africa—specifically Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone—within the last 21 days (3 weeks)?
 - Answer is “Yes”: Personnel will remove themselves from the scene area and remain outside.
 - Answer is “No”: Continue normal triage and patient care.
 - If screening question was positive (yes), the ambulance crew will don appropriate PPE, enter the scene, and assume patient care. (see above)
 - The remaining agencies on scene will remain outside to serve as Incident Command, scene control, and communications.
 - Receiving facility must be notified prior to the patient’s arrival of the possibility of an Ebola infected patient.

After assessment on scene, if there is a suspected Ebola case, the Yolo County Department of Health Services/EMS Duty Officer is to be notified immediately at (530) 321-3620.

If any personnel are exposed to bodily fluids of potential Ebola patients:

- Stop working right away and wash the affected skin surface with soap and water. Mucous membranes should be irrigated with a large amount of water or eyewash solution.
- Contact your designated agency officer for direction on evaluation and treatment.
- Contact the Yolo County Department of Health Services/EMS Duty Officer immediately at (530) 321-3620. Post exposure guidelines will be provided.

CC:
Yolo County Health Officer
Yolo County Director of Health Services
