

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**2014- PAHAN -294 - 11-05-ADV**

**Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department and Ambulatory Care Evaluation of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)**



<b>DATE:</b>	11/05/2014
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Michael Wolf, Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department and Ambulatory Care Evaluation of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Statewide
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Statewide
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	Statewide
<b>COUNTY:</b>	Statewide
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	Statewide
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	Statewide

**This transmission is a “Health Advisory”:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, INFECTION CONTROL, NURSING, AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL

**EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) is providing the following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on evaluating patients for suspected Ebola virus disease

These "Identify, Isolate, Inform" algorithms are available as flowcharts for the emergency department and ambulatory care.

Emergency Department

Algorithm – Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department Evaluation and Management for Patients Who Present with Possible Ebola Virus Disease (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ed-algorithm-management-patients-possible-ebola.pdf>)

In the emergency department, this guidance stresses the importance of:

**Identify:** Does the patient have any risk of exposure to someone with Ebola virus disease because he or she:

- Came from a country with widespread Ebola transmission (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html#areas>) within the previous 21 days? OR
- Had contact with an individual with confirmed Ebola virus disease?

If so, does the patient have fever (subjective or  $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **OR** compatible symptoms (headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or hemorrhage)

**Isolate:** Isolate the patient in a private room with a private bathroom and evaluate only with designated staff. The use of personal protective equipment should be determined on the patient's clinical status.

**Inform:** Notify IMMEDIATELY:

- Hospital infection control staff, AND
- Local health department

Additionally, the Emergency Department guidance is also available in narrative form: Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department Evaluation and Management for Patients Who Present with Possible Ebola Virus Disease (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/ed-management-patients-possible-ebola.html>).

### Ambulatory Care

Algorithm – Ambulatory Care Evaluation of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola) (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ambulatory-care-evaluation-of-patients-with-possible-ebola.pdf>)

In ambulatory care settings outside of the emergency department, this guidance stresses the importance of:

**Identify:** Does the patient have any risk of exposure to someone with Ebola virus disease because he or she:

- Came from a country with widespread Ebola transmission (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html#areas>) within the previous 21 days? OR
- Had contact with an individual with confirmed Ebola virus disease?

If so, does the patient have fever (subjective or  $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) **OR** compatible symptoms (headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or hemorrhage)

**Isolate:** Isolate the patient in a private room with a private bathroom and evaluate only with designated staff. The use of personal protective equipment should be determined on the patient's clinical status.

**Inform:** Notify the local health department IMMEDIATELY to discuss safe transportation to a hospital for more definitive care.

Please call your state or local public health department at one of the following numbers if you suspect an individual may have Ebola Virus Disease:

- i. Pennsylvania Department of Health: 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258)
- ii. Allegheny County Health Department: 412-687-2243; After Hours: 412-687-2243
- iii. Allentown Health Bureau: 610-437-7760; After Hours 610-437-7760
- iv. Bethlehem Bureau of Health: 610-865-7087; After Hours 610-865-7187
- v. Bucks County Department of Health: 215-345-3318; After Hours: 888-245-7210
- vi. Chester County Health Department: 610-344-6225; After Hours: 610-733-4919
- vii. Erie County Department of Health: 814-451-6700, 24 Hours/7 Days
- viii. Montgomery County Department of Health: 610-278-5117; After Hours: 610-275-1222
- ix. Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Disease Control: 215-685-6740, After Hours: 215-686-4514
- x. Wilkes-Barre City Health Department: 570-208-4268; After Hours: 570-208-4268
- xi. York City Bureau of Health: 717-849-2299; After Hours: 717-324-6591

Categories of Health Alert messages:

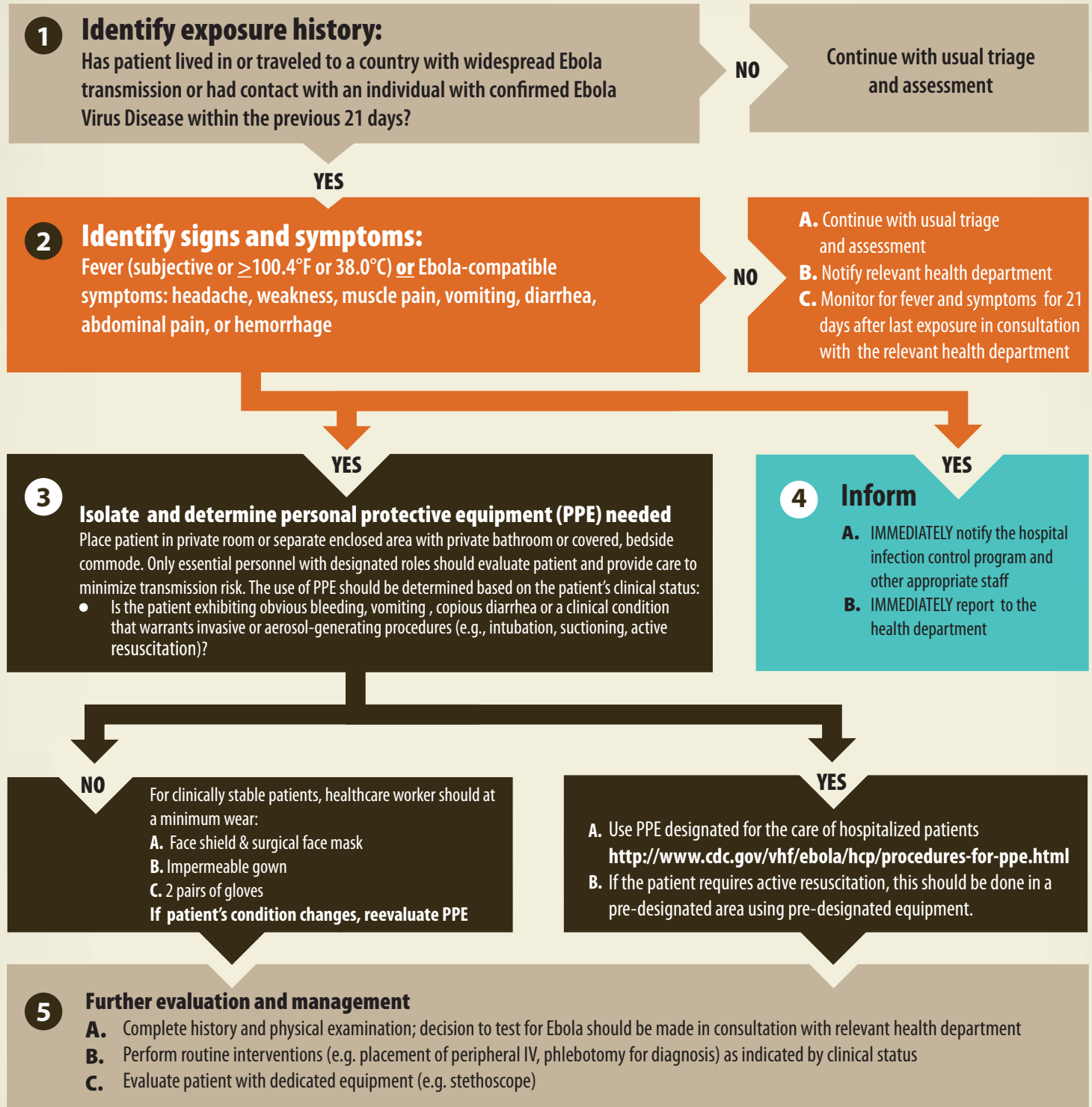
**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**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; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of November 5, 2014, but may be modified in the future.

# Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department Evaluation and Management of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease

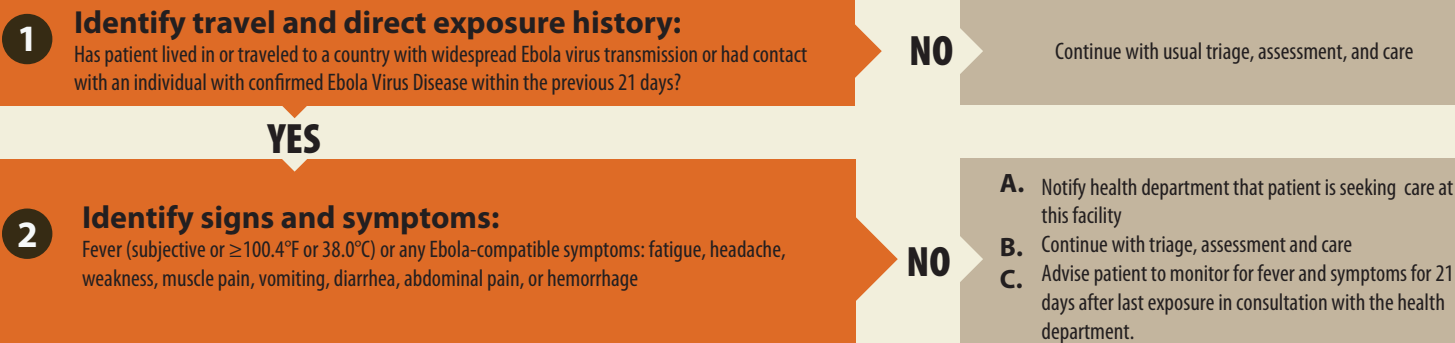


U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Identify, Isolate, Inform: Ambulatory Care Evaluation of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola)



The majority of febrile patients in ambulatory settings do not have Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola), and the risk posed by Ebola patients with early, limited symptoms is lower than that from a patient hospitalized with severe disease. Nevertheless, because early Ebola symptoms are similar to those seen with other febrile illnesses, triage and evaluation processes should consider and systematically assess patients for the possibility of Ebola.



**YES - Patient may meet criteria for Person Under Investigation for Ebola\***

- 3 Isolate patient immediately: Avoid unnecessary direct contact**
- Place patient in private room or area, preferably enclosed with private bathroom or covered commode.
  - Avoid unnecessary direct contact.
  - If direct contact is necessary, personal protective equipment (PPE) and dedicated equipment must be used to minimize transmission risk.
  - Only essential personnel with designated roles should evaluate patient.
  - If patient is exhibiting obvious bleeding, vomiting or copious diarrhea, then do not re-enter room until EMS personnel trained to transport Person Under Investigation for Ebola arrive.
  - Do not perform phlebotomy or any other procedures unless urgently required for patient care or stabilization.
  - Consult with the health department before cleaning up blood or body fluids. Any reusable equipment should not be reused until it has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected.\*

**AND**

- 4 Inform Health Department and prepare for safe transport.**
- Contact the relevant health department IMMEDIATELY.
  - Prepare for transfer to a hospital identified by the health department for evaluation of possible Ebola.
  - Coordinate with health department regarding:
    - Who will notify the receiving emergency department or hospital about the transfer, and
    - Arrangements for safe transport to accepting facility designated by public health officials.

**PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR EBOLA SHOULD ONLY BE SENT TO HOSPITALS AND FACILITIES SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED BY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS.**

**Do not transfer without first notifying the health department.**

## PPE in the ambulatory care setting\*\*:

- No one should have direct contact with a Person Under Investigation for Ebola without wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- If PPE is available and direct patient contact necessary, a single staff member (trained in proper donning and removal of PPE) should be designated to interact with the Person Under Investigation.
- At a minimum, health care workers should use the following PPE before direct patient contact:
  - A.** Face shield & surgical face mask,
  - B.** Impermeable gown, and
  - C.** Two pairs of gloves.
- The designated staff member should refrain from direct interaction with other staff and patients in the office until PPE has been safely removed in a designated, confined area. Examples of safe donning and removal of PPE should be reviewed: [http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007ip\\_fig.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/2007IP/2007ip_fig.html)

NOTE: Patients with exposure history and Ebola-compatible symptoms seeking care by phone should be advised to remain in place, minimize exposure of body fluids to household members or others near them, and given the phone number to notify the health department. The ambulatory care facility must also inform the health department. If the clinical situation is an emergency, the ambulatory care facility or patient should call 911 and tell EMS personnel the patient's Ebola risk factors so they can arrive at the location with the correct PPE.

\*Refer to <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/> for the most up-to-date guidance on the **Case Definition for Ebola, Environmental Infection Control and Ebola-Associated Waste Management**;

\*\*Refer to <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/settings/outpatient/outpatient-care-guidelines.html> for a summary guide of infection prevention recommendations for outpatient settings.