



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

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Ebola Virus Disease

An outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is currently occurring in the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. On August 8th the World Health Organization declared this a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Two cases in U.S. aid workers in West Africa have been reported. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) advises that while the possibility of infected persons entering the U.S. remains low, healthcare providers should consider EVD in the differential diagnosis of patients with compatible symptoms and risk factors (see <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00364.asp>).

EVD is characterized by sudden onset of high fever. Additional symptoms may include myalgia, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea; patients with severe disease may develop multi-organ dysfunction, including hepatic and/or renal failure, central nervous system involvement and diffuse hemorrhage, leading to shock and death. Incubation period is 2-21 days post-exposure.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS

1. CONSIDER EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE in patients who meet the following criteria:

- Any person with fever who: (a) has traveled within the past 21 days to a country involved in the Ebola outbreak; OR (b) who has cared for, or been in contact with body fluids of, a person diagnosed with, or strongly suspected to have EVD.**
- Any person with a high risk exposure (see (b) above) who does not have fever but has additional clinically compatible symptoms.**

Testing for malaria is generally also indicated in febrile EVD suspects.

2. IMPLEMENT STANDARD, DROPLET, CONTACT AND AIRBORN PRECAUTIONS immediately for suspected cases. (see: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>).

3. IMMEDIATELY REPORT suspect EVD cases to Marin County Communicable Disease Prevention and Control (CDPC) by phone at 415-473-4163. After hours, follow instructions to have the on-call MD paged.

4. TEST suspected cases. Collect at least 4 mL of serum, plasma, or whole blood and refrigerate. Marin CDPC will provide instructions concerning specimen handling,

and will arrange for the specimen to be transported to the Regional Public Health Laboratory as a Category B diagnostic specimen. Do not send specimens directly to CDPH or CDC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CDC Ebola Page: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

CDC Health Alert Network: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/index.asp>

For an updated list of countries involved:

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/ebola/en>