



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL
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"Partnering to promote, protect and preserve health in our community."

HEALTH ALERT NETWORK HEALTH DISTRICT 4

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE ADVISORY FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Recommendations for Healthcare Workers: West Africa Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak

August 4, 2014

As of July 30, 2014, 1440 suspect and confirmed cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and 826 deaths have been reported in West Africa. Health authorities have reported that two U.S. healthcare workers at a hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, have confirmed Ebola virus infection. One of the healthcare workers, a physician who worked with Ebola patients, has been transferred to a US hospital for treatment. The other healthcare worker, a hygienist, is also expected to be brought to the US for treatment.

While no EVD cases have been reported in the United States, the recent cases demonstrate the risk for travelers and healthcare providers. EVD poses little risk to the Idaho general population at this time. However, healthcare providers are advised to be alert for signs and symptoms (see: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/symptoms/index.html>) of EVD in patients with compatible illness who have a recent (within 21 days) travel history to countries where the outbreak is occurring (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone), and should consider isolation of those patients meeting these criteria, pending diagnostic testing.

Please report any patient being evaluated for EVD to Central District Health Department at (208) 327-8625 or the Bureau of Communicable Disease and Prevention at (208) 334-5939 to coordinate testing with the Idaho Bureau of Laboratories. If reporting after hours or weekends, contact State Communications at 1-800-632-8000.

Healthcare providers should collect serum, plasma, or whole blood. A minimum sample volume of 4 mL should be shipped refrigerated or frozen on ice pack or dry ice (no glass tubes), in accordance with IATA guidelines as a Category B diagnostic specimen. Please refer to <http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dhcpp/vspb/specimens.html> for detailed instructions and a link to the specimen submission form for CDC laboratory testing.

For more information:

- 1) Additional information on EVD can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ebola>

- 2) *Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in U.S. Hospitals* (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>).
- 3) Travel notices for each country in which the outbreak is occurring can be found at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

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