



DALLAS COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
EPIDEMIOLOGY

Zachary Thompson
Director

Dr. Christopher Perkins
Health Authority/ Medical Director

From: Jessica Smith, MPH, Epidemiologist
Wendy Chung, MD, Chief Epidemiologist

To: Dallas County Medical Providers and Laboratory Staff

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HEALTH ADVISORY (#4): Ebola Virus Disease

A patient hospitalized in Dallas County was confirmed to have Ebola infection this afternoon, through testing performed at the CDC and state laboratories¹. This is the first imported case of Ebola to have been diagnosed in the United States. The person had arrived in Dallas from Liberia on 9/20/14 to visit family and began developing illness symptoms on 9/24/14. The individual sought medical care at Texas Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas on 9/26/14. After developing symptoms consistent with Ebola, the patient was admitted into isolation on 9/28/14 and testing for Ebola was recommended in consultation that day with Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) and CDC, based on travel history and symptoms. Meticulous infection control measures are in place for the patient, to ensure the safety of patients and staff.

DCHHS is working with the CDC and state health department to identify all persons who have had close personal contact with the case and to provide close monitoring of contacts for symptoms. These efforts will also be further supported by the arrival of a CDC team tomorrow. CDC does not recommend that persons on the same commercial airline flights as the case undergo any monitoring, since this case was not symptomatic and therefore not contagious during the flights. Anyone concerned about possible exposure can call CDC-Info at 800-CDC-INFO for more information.

As the largest Ebola epidemic in history will likely continue for months in West Africa, ***all clinicians should be prepared to evaluate a febrile traveler from affected countries.*** DCHHS requests that all healthcare providers in Dallas County hospital and acute care settings:

- (1) Review with staff the respective CDC preparedness checklists for: [Healthcare providers](#)², [Healthcare facilities](#)³ and [Emergency Medical Services](#)⁴, in preparation for encountering possible EVD cases.
- (2) **Collect a travel history in all patients presenting with fever.** Travel history is also essential to recognition of patients with other imported diseases, including Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Healthcare facilities should adopt the following practices:
 - At entrance to all acute care areas, including triage areas, place posters that ask patients to immediately inform staff if they are ill and recently traveled internationally.
 - Establish **routine** processes to *immediately* ask any patient presenting with fever about travel.
 - Place a surgical mask on anyone who reports travel to a country affected by the EVD outbreak, and immediately escort the patient to a private room for medical evaluation.
- (3) **Promptly isolate in a single patient room and use standard, contact and droplet precautions for a patient that meets the following criteria:**
 - Travel within 21 days before illness onset to an EVD outbreak affected area (i.e., Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria), AND
 - Fever (>38.5°C or 101.5°F) and any compatible symptoms (e.g., severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or hemorrhage)

Immediately report any patient who meets the criteria above (in #3) to DCHHS by phone at 214-819-2004 or after-hours at 877-605-2660. Please be prepared to discuss clinical information, travel history, and risk exposure history. (See attached [DCHHS screening questions and algorithm](#)⁵.) Additional updates and advisories will be communicated to the medical community as investigations evolve.

1. CDC Press Release Sept 30, 2014. www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/s930-ebola-confirmed-case.html
2. CDC. Health Care Facility Preparedness EVD Checklist. www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/healthcare-facility-checklist-for-ebola.pdf
3. CDC. Health Care Provider Preparedness EVD Checklist. www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/healthcare-provider-checklist-for-ebola.pdf
4. CDC Detailed EMS Checklist for EVD. www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ems-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf
5. DCHHS. www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/documents/DCHHSAlgorithmforTestingofSuspectedEVD_201400827final.pdf