

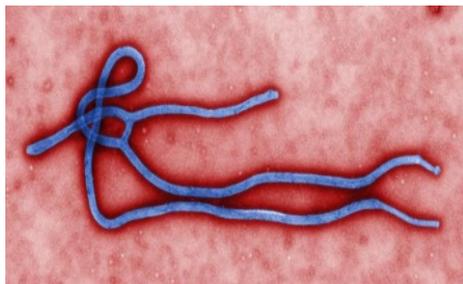


This alert contains information on investigations in progress and/or diagnoses that may not yet be confirmed.

The Physician Alert is intended primarily for the use of local health care providers, should be considered privileged, and should NOT be distributed further.

EARLY IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE ALERT! – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL HISTORY MUST BE ASKED

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



confirmed on September 30, 2014 the first case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) diagnosed in the United

States in a person who had traveled from Liberia to Dallas, Texas. The patient did not have symptoms when leaving West Africa, but developed symptoms approximately four days after arriving in the U.S. on Sept. 20. The person fell ill on Sept. 24 and sought medical care at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas on Sept. 26. After developing symptoms consistent with Ebola, he was admitted to the hospital on Sept. 28.

Ebola can only be spread to others after symptoms begin. Symptoms can appear from 2 to 21 days after exposure. If your patients present with any of the following symptoms, your facility **MUST ASK** about their international travel history within 21 days prior to their initial onset of any symptoms.

- ◆ Fever
- ◆ Headache
- ◆ Diarrhea
- ◆ Vomiting
- ◆ Stomach pain
- ◆ Unexplained bleeding or bruising
- ◆ Muscle pain

For example, if your patient is seeking medical care on October 1, 2014, with symptoms that began on September 29, you should ask "Have you traveled outside the United States since September 8, 2014?" If

your patient has a travel history to West African countries such as Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone and has any of the symptoms listed above, The following actions are recommended:

- ◆ Ask the patient to stay.
- ◆ Do not discharge the patient home.
- ◆ Contact local hospitals for a further medical evaluation if in ambulatory setting. The patient in non-critical condition may be only accompanied by those individuals who have already been exposed to the patient using a private vehicle.
- ◆ Do order a laboratory test for the patient. You may need to call Washoe County Health District (WCHD) at 775-328-2447 for a coordination of laboratory testing.

If the patient is not willing to cooperate, please also call WCHD 775-328-2447 for further assistance and consideration of a mandatory isolation order.

Early identification of a suspected case of EVD is a critical step in controlling disease transmission. Clinicians working at primary care settings, urgent care facilities, and emergency rooms should evaluate your current protocols. It is important to ensure your protocols contain specific procedures for questioning patients that present with Ebola compatible symptoms about their international travel history. To obtain the preparedness checklists for Ebola Virus Disease for healthcare providers, healthcare facilities, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), please check out this website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/whats-new.html>