NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

October 23, 2014

MEDICAL ADVISORY: GUIDANCE FOR PRIMARY CARE AND URGENT CARE PROVIDERS REGARDING PATIENTS POSSIBLY INFECTED WITH EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) is providing the following guidance to primary care clinicians and stand-alone urgent care clinics for the safe evaluation of patients for possible Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Although such patients are more likely to present to hospital emergency departments, all primary care and urgent care providers need to be aware of and prepared for the possibility that a patient with risk for EVD may contact or present to you. As a reminder, clinicians should consider potential EVD in persons presenting with:

- **Fever greater than 38.0°C or 100.4°F** *(note lower temperature since last advisory on October 3rd)* and additional symptoms such as severe headache, myalgias, emesis, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage

AND

- **Travel history in the last 21 days from a country where an EVD outbreak is occurring** (specifically **Guinea, Liberia,** and **Sierra Leone**).

Should a patient meeting the above criteria contact or present to you or your clinic, **immediately contact DOH**. **Do NOT automatically redirect the patient to a local emergency room**:

- If the patient is clinically stable and is physically in your practice/clinic, isolate the patient in a private room and limit procedures and exposures to other individuals/staff. If the patient is at home, advise the person to separate themselves from others and remain at home. Further patient management and movement should be determined in consultation with DOH.
- If the patient is clinically unstable or needs emergent medical care, contact emergency medical services, inform them that the patient meets EVD evaluation criteria, and provide specific clinical and epidemiological details.

Providers are advised to remain up to date on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) infection prevention/personal protective equipment (PPE) and environmental infection control guidelines by referring to CDC's website for healthcare workers (http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html). DOH will also post the most current guidelines for preparing your clinic/practice, infection prevention, patient evaluation, and waste management recommendations on our "Updates and Resources for Clinicians" webpage (https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/updates-and-resources-for-clinicians) as materials become available.

Remember that EVD CANNOT be transmitted **before** symptom onset. Patients are infectious only by direct contact with blood or body fluids **after** symptom onset. Strict adherence to infection prevention guidelines will prevent transmission of disease to healthcare workers, staff, visitors, and the general public.

EVD is an **URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION** and must be reported by phone:

Oahu (Disease Investigation Branch) ..... (808) 586-4586
Maui District Health Office ..... (808) 984-8213
Kauai District Health Office ..... (808) 241-3563
Big Island District Health Office (Hilo) ..... (808) 933-0912
Big Island District Health Office (Kona) .....(808) 322-4877
After hours on Oahu .....(808) 566-5049
After hours on neighbor islands .....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

Thank you for your assistance in assuring Hawaii's healthcare preparedness and in protecting the health of our residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

Sarah Y. Park, M.D., F.A.A.P.
State Epidemiologist
Hawaii Department of Health