Dear Healthcare Provider:

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) would like to ensure that all clinicians in Hawaii are aware of the criteria for evaluating a patient with possible infection with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Clinicians should consider potential EVD in persons presenting with:

- **Fever greater than 38.6°C (101.5°F)** and additional symptoms such as severe headache, myalgias, emesis, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage
  
  AND

- **Travel history in the last 21 days of being in a country where an EVD outbreak is occurring** (currently Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

Additional epidemiologic history that should be collected includes any history of contact with blood or other body fluids or human remains of a patient known or suspected to have EVD, direct handling of bats or non-human primates from disease-endemic areas, and/or activities leading to such exposure. Such increased-risk activities include delivering healthcare, living in the same household of an individual with EVD, or participating in funeral rites in affected countries. **Ascertainment of a thorough travel history is paramount** in detecting a possible EVD infection. Given the large number of travelers seen in Hawaii and the international relief efforts that are ongoing, clinicians should be alert to the possibility that a patient may present to their care with the above findings.

Negative test results **before** symptom onset or early in the course of disease **CANNOT** be used to exclude EVD. **DOH consultation is required** to determine whether to **test** a patient for EVD; that determination relies heavily on the assessment of the patient’s clinical and epidemiological criteria.

EVD **CANNOT** be transmitted in the period before symptom onset as patients are infectious only by direct contact with blood or body fluids after symptom onset. **Strict adherence to infection prevention (i.e., standard, contact, and droplet) guidelines** ([http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html)) will contain and prevent transmission of disease to healthcare workers, staff, visitors, and the general public.
Please note that Ebola Virus Disease 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 our investigation and in protecting the health of our residents.

Sincerely,

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