



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

October 3, 2014

MEDICAL ADVISORY: EVALUATION OF PATIENTS FOR POTENTIAL
INFECTION WITH EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

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>) 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