



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

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

March 18, 2021

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: EBOLA HEMORRHAGIC FEVER OUTBREAKS IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) AND GUINEA**

- **THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IS MONITORING TRAVELERS WHO HAVE ARRIVED IN HAWAII FROM AFFECTED COUNTRIES**
- **HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS SHOULD ASK ABOUT AND DOCUMENT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL HISTORIES**
- **HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS EVALUATING A PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI) FOR EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) SHOULD IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE INFECTION CONTROL PRECAUTIONS AND CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IMMEDIATELY**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

Outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (EVD) are ongoing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Guinea. As of March 4, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention established post-arrival screening and monitoring at six United States international airports of travelers arriving from Ebola-affected areas. The Hawaii Department of Health has received notifications of travelers from affected countries entering our state and conducts monitoring of these travelers. All travelers identified thus far have been low risk (no travel to outbreak area).

The Hawaii Department of Health provides the following guidance for personnel who might conduct screening and triage activities or be responsible for initial clinical management of patients:

- Call the Disease Outbreak Control Division with any concerns about travelers from the specific affected areas who have symptoms suggestive of Ebola.
- Testing for Ebola virus can be requested through the Disease Outbreak Control Division for patients who have an epidemiologic link to the specific geographic areas where Ebola is circulating and have symptoms suggestive of EVD. Whole blood should be collected for testing by real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR). Urine specimens can also be submitted with a corresponding whole blood specimen but should not be the sole specimen submitted. Additional details on specimen submission criteria and requirements can be found at <https://health.hawaii.gov/statelab/files/2013/07/sld-brs-sr-ebola3.pdf>.
- Currently, all U.S. healthcare settings are recommended to screen and triage everyone entering the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Additionally, it is recommended that facilities:

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- Ask about and document international travel histories to alert healthcare personnel to the possibility of other communicable infections, such as viral hemorrhagic fevers, that need specific infection control precautions and/or treatment, AND
- Post contact information for infection control personnel and the local public health jurisdiction for reporting of communicable diseases, including EVD, in easily visible locations.

Current CDC infection prevention and control guidance for U.S. healthcare facilities is available on the [CDC Ebola website for clinicians](#).

- A Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Calculator Tool is available to assist healthcare facilities in determining the appropriate supply of PPE to have on hand to manage a PUI or patient with confirmed EVD.
- A healthcare facility evaluating a PUI or treating a patient with EVD should consult with the Department of Health if they are unable to meet these recommendations due to PPE shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is considered an URGENTLY REPORTABLE condition.**

Providers are required to report suspected or confirmed cases or persons under investigation (PUI) for EVD immediately by contacting us at one of the numbers below.

- Oahu (Disease Reporting Line).....(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) 600-3625
- After hours on neighbor islands .....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your support in protecting the health of our community in Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Sarah K. Kemble, M.D.  
Acting State Epidemiologist