



COUNTY OF ORANGE

PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGY & ASSESSMENT

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Ebola Outbreak In West Africa

West Africa has been experiencing a large outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) since December of 2013. As of August 15, 2127 confirmed or suspect cases of disease including 1145 suspected case deaths have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. There are no suspect or confirmed cases of Ebola in the United States, aside from two United States citizens who were transported to Emory University for further care after contracting the disease while caring for patients with EVD in Liberia. Though the risk of Ebola to the United States or Orange County is small, the potential exists for imported disease in persons traveling from countries where EVD is active. Medical providers should keep up to date on this outbreak and know which patients merit evaluation for EVD.

Providers should contact Orange County Public Health at 714-834-8180 (714-628-7008 after hours) immediately upon identifying any patient with potential EVD. Orange County Public Health can assist with assessment and testing of any case meeting the CDC-defined criteria for a Person Under Investigation, which includes:

1. Clinical criteria:
 - a. Fever of greater than 38.6 degrees Celsius or 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit, and
 - b. Additional symptoms such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage

AND

2. Epidemiologic risk factors within the past 21 days before the onset of symptoms, such as:
 - a. Contact with blood or other body fluids or human remains of a patient known to have or suspected to have EVD or
 - b. Residence in—or travel to—an area where EVD transmission is active* or
 - c. Direct handling of bats, rodents, or primates from disease-endemic areas.

Persons who have had direct contact with Ebola cases through healthcare work or social exposure in West Africa are at particularly high risk for developing disease. For further description of risk factors and clinical recommendations to prepare for or manage Ebola, see www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html.

*As of August 15, countries where EVD is active include Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Infection Prevention and Control

Standard, contact and droplet precautions are indicated for suspected EVD. Personal protective equipment (PPE) should include gloves, gown, eye protection (goggles or face shield) and facemask. Additional PPE is necessary if copious blood or other fluid is present in the environment, including double gloving, disposable shoe covering, and leg covering. PPE should be discarded on leaving room taking care to avoid contamination when removing.

Laboratory Testing

The diagnostic test of choice for EVD is PCR testing of the blood. The virus is generally PCR-detectable from 3-10 days post-onset of symptoms. If the onset of symptoms is <3 days prior to specimen collection, a subsequent specimen will be required to completely rule-out EVD. Testing is available through the CDC. Orange County Public Health can assist with assuring appropriate transport of specimens.

For updated information on the outbreak, including countries where EVD is active, go to:
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/index.html.

Contact Orange County Public at 714-834-8180 with any questions.