



HIGHMARK URGES HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TO BE PREPARED TO DETECT AND TREAT EBOLA PATIENTS

This document will continue to be updated as new information concerning Ebola becomes available. Updated entries are indicated as "*New*"

The Effects of Ebola and Children

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is bringing awareness to providers on the medical treatment of children with Ebola. Recognition of Ebola in children may be difficult. Highmark encourages providers to view the AAP websites to ensure the appropriate care is being provided.

For professionals: <http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Children-and-Disasters/Pages/Ebola.aspx>

For parents: <http://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/>

Ebola Preparedness from the Department Of Health And Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and state and local health departments are urging all health care providers to be prepared to detect a potentially infectious Ebola patient.

Please see letter from DHHS: <http://www.phe.gov/about/OPP/dhsp/Documents/ebola-openletterhealthcareprofessionals.pdf>

Health care personnel should ask about recent travel in all patients presenting with a fever or other symptoms of Ebola, which include myalgia, severe headache, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, or unexplained bleeding or bruising. If a patient with symptoms has been in an affected country (currently Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea), the following steps should be taken:

- The patient should be isolated in a single room,
- Health care personnel should use appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, impermeable gown, eye protection, face mask),
- The local or state health department should be notified.

The CDC's Ebola preparedness checklist for providers: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/healthcare-provider-checklist-for-ebola.pdf>

Algorithm – Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department Evaluation and Management for Patients Who Present with Possible Ebola Virus Disease *(New 11/06/14)*
flow charts for the emergency department and ambulatory care: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ed-algorithm-management-patients-possible-ebola.pdf>

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance from the CDC

CDC's instructions for donning and doffing PPE: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>

Fact Sheet and Outline of Guidance and Procedures related to PPE

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/fs1020-ebola-personal-protective-equipment.html>

CDC Recommendation - The State Health Department Should be the First Point of Contact

Contact list for the State Health Department:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/state-local-health-department-contacts.html>

We encourage you to visit the CDC Ebola website at <http://www.cdc.gov/> for the most updated information on the Ebola virus outbreak and to share this information with your colleagues and networks.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting the nation's health.