

Safe Management of Suspected Ebola: Detect, Protect, Respond, Report

As a frontline healthcare provider, you play an essential role in protecting the health and well-being of our nation. As a reminder, simple steps can be taken to prevent the spread of this disease. You can contribute to our country's response by being ready to detect a potentially infected patient; protect yourself, your colleagues, and other patients from exposure; respond with appropriate patient care; and immediately report to the proper authorities. Specifically, you should be ready to:

Detect: Ask All Patients with Non-Specific Complaints About Recent Travel and Possible Exposure

A travel history should be taken as early as possible in your encounter with all patients. Additionally, inquire as early as possible about any exposure to someone suspected of having Ebola. The [signs and symptoms of Ebola](#) are nonspecific (e.g., fever, headache, muscle pain, weakness, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.). Use the [Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\) Algorithm](#) for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler in order to determine whether there is a risk of Ebola Virus Disease.

Protect: Use Mandatory Infection Control Practices

- Isolate the patient safely in an area of the clinic, preferably with a bathroom.
- Evacuate all other individuals from the office through the exit that is farthest away from the point of entry and location of the suspected Ebola patient.
- Avoid contact with blood and body fluids from the suspected Ebola patient. Do not re-enter the room with the suspected Ebola patient.
- If you suspect that you have had contact with blood or body fluids from the suspected Ebola patient, then isolate yourself and await instructions from the CDC or local health department.

Reminder: Consistent and frequent hand washing is key to reducing or eliminating the transmission of Ebola.

Respond: Have a Plan

It is critical to minimize contact with the suspected Ebola patient, especially with their blood and body fluids. As soon as possible, dial 9-1-1 for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and let them know that you have a suspected case of Ebola.

Report: Notify the Authorities

1. As quickly as possible, call/ report to the CDC Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at 770-488-7100.
2. Then, notify the FOH Medical Director, Dr. Michelle Smith-Jefferies, at 202-768-1226. The Medical Director will then report directly to the Office of the Director.
3. Finally, notify your local and state health departments.

NOTE: Ebola is a nationally notifiable disease and must be reported to local, state, and federal public health authorities.

The [CDC website](#) has many important resources for clinicians and FOH has a helpful [website and fact sheet](#) as well.

In the last decade, our nation has made great strides in healthcare and public health emergency preparedness. We are confident in our collective ability to control the spread of Ebola domestically. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to national health security. *

*Information provided by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

