



GRAYSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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GUIDANCE FOR TRANSPORTATION OF POSSIBLE EBOLA PATIENTS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has confirmed, through laboratory tests, the first case of [Ebola](#) to be diagnosed in the United States in a person who had traveled to **Dallas, Texas** from Liberia. The patient did not have symptoms when leaving West Africa, but developed symptoms approximately four days after arriving in the U.S. on Sept. 20. The person fell ill on Sept. 24 and sought medical care at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas on Sept. 26. After developing symptoms consistent with Ebola, he was admitted to hospital on Sept. 28.

According to the City of Dallas the Emergency Medical Services crew members that transported the patient were quarantined, but have now been released after all members tested negative for the Ebola Virus. They will be monitored for the next 21 days. The decision to quarantine the EMS crew was made according to the policies of Dallas County and the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The Grayson County Health Department advises all local Emergency Response Agencies to review and apply Universal Precautions guidelines and procedures, with all staff members. The CDC provides a set of guidelines at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/universal.html> , however if an agency has a more stringent set of policies already in place, they are encouraged to follow their own policies and practices.

Early recognition is critical to controlling the spread of Ebola virus. Emergency Medical Responders should be alert for and evaluate any patients with symptoms consistent with Ebola Virus Disease and potential exposure history. [Standard, contact, and droplet precautions](#) should be immediately implemented if Ebola Virus Disease is suspected. Guidance for evaluating patients is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/clinician-information-us-healthcare-settings.html>.

The CDC has published a checklist to help First Responders prepare, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ems-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf> to download the information.

For more information on Ebola and the current Ebola Outbreak please visit the following websites:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

World Health Organization at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>

Texas Department of State Health Services at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/preparedness/ebola-outbreak.aspx>

If you need additional information about Ebola, please contact the Grayson County Health Department at (903) 893-0131 and speak with Josh Stevenson at extension 236 or send an e-mail to stevensonj@co.grayson.tx.us