



GRAYSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Health Care Provider Information Bulletin Ebola (Ebola Virus Disease) October 1st, 2014

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has reported a positive laboratory test result for Ebola on a patient in a Dallas County hospital; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed the positive result. The patient had come from West Africa to visit family members in the United States during the previous week. He presented to a Dallas County hospital with symptoms consistent with Ebola. The patient is in isolation under standard, contact, and droplet precautions. Persons who had contact with the patient are being identified, informed, and monitored.

The positive result on the patient in Texas does not represent an increased risk to the general community. **The virus is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or unprotected mucous membrane) with the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with ebola, with objects like needles that have been contaminated with the virus, or with infected animals. Ebola is not spread through the air, water or, in general, by food**

Healthcare providers should be alert for symptoms and travel history that might indicate Ebola and should evaluate these patients' risk of exposure (See <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>.) DSHS has the capacity to perform PCR testing for Ebola. All testing must be approved by DSHS prior to specimen submission. Local Physicians, Hospitals and Emergency Rooms should contact the Grayson County Health Department to request forwarding of test samples from patients who have both consistent symptoms and risk factors to DSHS.

Patients who meet the criteria below are considered Person Under Investigation (PUI):

1. Clinical criteria: fever greater than 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit, and 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 contact with blood or other body fluids or human remains of a patient known to have or suspected to have ebola; residence in—or travel to—an area where ebola transmission is active (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and some parts of Nigeria); or direct handling of bats or non-human primates from disease-endemic areas.

Early recognition and treatment of ebola is important for providing appropriate patient care and preventing the spread of infection. Ebola PUIs and confirmed cases can be cared for in hospitals using standard, contact and droplet infection prevention protocols. For more information, [click here](#).

The Grayson County Health Department advises all local Health Care Providers 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.

Basic interventions (providing intravenous fluids balancing electrolytes; maintaining oxygen status and blood pressure; and treating other infections if they occur) when used early, can improve the chances of survival: No specific vaccine or medicine (e.g., antiviral drug) has been proven to be effective against Ebola.

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.