



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF RESCUE

October 3, 2014

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN #14-49

TO: All Fire and Rescue Personnel
FROM: Ivan T. Mote, Division Chief/Rescue *ITM*
RE: **Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever**

Please find attached the latest CDC Guidelines for the response and management of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever.

The signs and symptoms of Ebola typically include: Fever (greater than 38.6°C or 101.5°F):

- Severe headache
- Muscle pain
- Weakness
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal (stomach) pain
- Lack of appetite

Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to the Ebola virus, although 8-10 days is most common.



First responders should wear: gloves, gown (fluid resistant or impermeable), shoe covers, eye protection (goggles or face shield), and a facemask. Additional PPE might be required in certain situations (e.g., copious amounts of blood, other body fluids, vomit, or feces present in the environment), including but not limited to double gloving, disposable shoe covers, and leg coverings. If the suspected patient is receiving a nebulizer treatment, the provider should wear an N-95 mask in addition to the standard PPE.

After transporting the suspected patient to the hospital, **diligent environmental cleaning and disinfection and safe handling of potentially contaminated materials is paramount**, as blood, sweat, emesis, feces and other body secretions represent potentially infectious materials. Appropriate disinfectants for Ebola virus and other filoviruses include 10% sodium hypochlorite (bleach) solution, or hospital-grade quaternary ammonium or phenolic products. Healthcare providers performing environmental cleaning and disinfection should wear recommended PPE (described above) and consider use of additional barriers (e.g., shoe and leg coverings) if needed. Face protection (face shield or facemask with goggles) should be worn when performing tasks such as liquid waste disposal that can generate splashes. “

Thank you for your cooperation.

Ebola – Talking Points
October 1, 2014

- The Florida Department of Health is actively monitoring the status of the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa and the information about the first Ebola case diagnosed in the U.S.
- People with recent travel history to the affected regions who are experiencing symptoms such as fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea and vomiting should mention their travel history to the medical professional who is evaluating them.
- Each county health department has regular communication and interaction with hospitals, medical providers and laboratories to ensure that appropriate reporting and public health action can be taken when necessary.



- If a patient with Ebola virus disease were to be diagnosed in Florida, the Department would work closely with healthcare partners to ensure appropriate patient care, protocols for isolation, infection control and the assessment of risk to relevant individuals.
- The Florida Department of Health works regularly with healthcare providers across the state and has distributed guidance for assessment and testing of suspect Ebola virus disease cases statewide.

ITM/jsg/af

