



# State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Public Health

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Louisiana Emergency Medical Service System  
EMS Directors, Medical Directors, Practitioners

**FROM:** Donnie Woodyard Jr.  
Director, Bureau of EMS

**DATE:** 15 October 2014

**SUBJECT:** Ebola Screening & Suspected Ebola Protocol

In consideration of the continued prevalence of Ebola cases worldwide, and the confirmed cases in the United States, attached are guidelines for EMS agencies and public safety. The Bureau of EMS urges all EMS Medical Directors and EMS Service Directors to:

- Modify call-taker/dispatch protocols to include the guidance detailed in the attachment
- Modify relevant operational protocols (typically fever / flu-like symptoms protocol) to include specific screening questions related to potential Ebola exposure
- Modify operational protocols to ensure EMS personnel call the 24-hour ID-EPI hotline **prior to transporting** any suspected Ebola patient
- Conduct training sessions on the proper use, removal, and disposal of PPE

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bureau of EMS.

## Ebola Screening Questions For Emergency Medical Services

1. Does the patient have flu-like symptoms, including a fever?
  - a. NO: Utilize standard protocols
  - b. **YES: Proceed to Question 2**
2. Is the patient a resident of – or has the patient traveled within the past 21 days to – a country where an Ebola outbreak is occurring? ([www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html))
  - a. NO: Proceed to Question 3
  - b. YES: This may be a SUSPECTED infectious patient.
    - i. Limit Additional Exposure
    - ii. Ensure PPE is used
    - iii. Call the Infectious Disease-Epidemiology Hotline (1-800-256-2748) **prior to transporting the patient.** The ID-EPI hotline will ask additional screening questions and a may request patient assessment information including Vital Signs. The ID-EPI hotline will either confirm this is a SUSPECTED case – and provide guidance - or inform EMS the patient does not meet the criteria.
3. Has the patient been exposed to someone who is suspected, or known, to have Ebola?
  - a. NO: If both Question 2 & 3 are “No”, utilize standard treatment protocols.
  - b. YES: This may be a SUSPECTED infectious patient.
    - i. Limit Additional Exposure
    - ii. Ensure PPE is used
    - iii. Call the Infectious Disease-Epidemiology Hotline (1-800-256-2748) **prior to transporting the patient.** The ID-EPI hotline will ask additional screening questions and a may request patient assessment information including Vital Signs. The ID-EPI hotline will either confirm this is a PROBABLE case – and provide guidance - or inform EMS the patient does not meet the screening criteria.

### Important Considerations:

| No Routine Aerosol Generating Procedures  | No Routine IV Lines   |
|---|---|
| <p>EMS should avoid aerosol generating procedures unless absolutely medically necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•These include: CPAP, BiPAP, nebulizer treatments, intubation and suctioning.</li> <li>•If these airway procedures are absolutely medically necessary, control conditions (e.g. briefly stop the ambulance).</li> </ul> | <p>Unless absolutely medically necessary do not initiate IV's on suspected Ebola patients in the pre-hospital environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•If an IV is absolutely required, it must be performed under controlled conditions (e.g. briefly stop the ambulance)</li> </ul> |
| Patient Transportation  | Decontamination   |
| <p>If the DHH Epidemiologist, via the ID-EPI hotline, has confirmed the patient is a PROBABLE case, coordinate a transportation plan and communicate with the receiving hospital prior to transport.</p>  | <p>If the DHH Epidemiologist, via the ID-EPI hotline, has confirmed the patient is a PROBABLE case, isolate the ambulance and coordinate with ID-EPI on the decontamination of the ambulance and how to secure the bio-hazard waste.</p>  |

# CALL-TAKER (911 + others) EBOLA SCREENING QUESTIONS

## SYMPTOMS

If the caller has **flu-like** symptoms, please ask the following questions:

**1.** Do you have fever?

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If **NO** If **YES**

Normal Response:  
Dispatch Appropriate Responder



CONTINUE TO 2.

## POSSIBLE EXPOSURE (VECTORS)

**2.** Are you a resident of – or have you traveled within the last **21 days** to – a country where an EBOLA outbreak is occurring?

[www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html)

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If **NO** If **YES**

CONTINUE TO 3.

SKIP AHEAD TO 4.

**3.** Have you been exposed to someone who is suspected or known to have EBOLA?

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If **NO** If **YES**

Normal Response:  
Dispatch Appropriate Responder

ONLY if 2 AND 3 are "NO":



CONTINUE TO 4.

**4.** If the caller answered "YES" to 1 AND "YES" to 2 AND/OR 3 ...

- Advise ALL dispatched responders:
  - That this may be a SUSPECTED Infectious Patient.
  - To limit exposure, proper PPE required to enter the scene.
- Proper PPE:



GOWN



MASK OR RESPIRATOR



GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD



GLOVES

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# FIRST RESPONDERS

# What To DO WHEN We Engage

## CALL TAKERS (911 + others)

- Ask screening questions.
- Report screening answers to ALL dispatched responders.
- If it is **determined** through Call-Taker screening this is a **SUSPECTED Infectious Patient case**, provide a **unified public safety response**.

## FIRST RESPONDER



**SUSPECTED Infectious Patient: Call DHH/Office of Public Health/Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ID EPI) Section at 1-800-256-2748**



### POLICE



- Secure scene.
- If risk of exposure exists, **allow** EMS to perform their function.
- If proper PPE is **not** available:
  - Maintain distance of 3 feet.
  - Put on **goggles or face shield AND gloves**, if available.
- Report **possible exposure** to your supervisor.
- Follow your **departmental protocols**.
- If EMS requires **direct assistance** with the patient, you **MUST put on** proper PPE.
  - **Gown AND mask or respirator AND goggles or face shield AND gloves.**
- If necessary, ensure **post-exposure DECON**, including your **vehicle** if exposed to the patient.
- Safely **remove** PPE if used; follow **CDC guidelines** for disposal.

### FIRE RESCUE



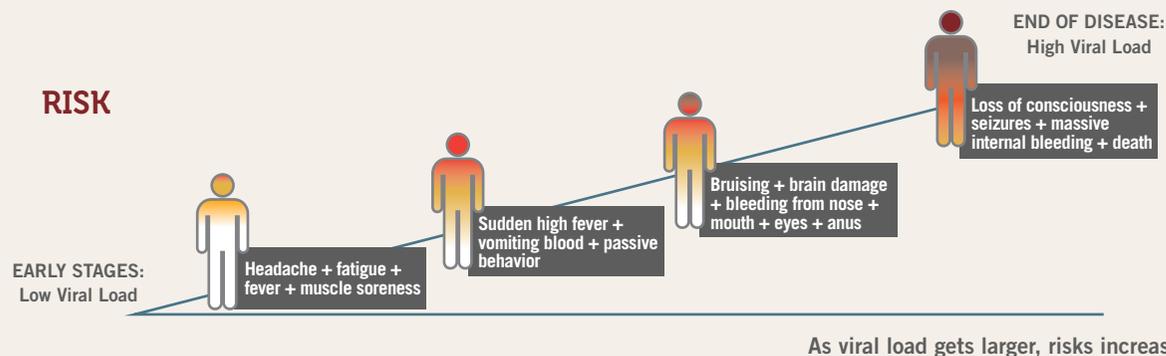
- Secure scene.
- If risk of exposure exists, **allow** EMS to perform their function.
- If proper PPE is **not** available:
  - Maintain distance of 3 feet.
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- Report **possible exposure** to your supervisor.
- Follow your **departmental protocols**.
- If EMS requires **direct assistance** with the patient, you **MUST put on** proper PPE.
  - **Gown AND mask or respirator AND goggles or face shield AND gloves.**
- If necessary, ensure **post-exposure DECON**, including your **vehicle** if exposed to the patient.
- Safely **remove** PPE if used; follow **CDC guidelines** for disposal.
- If you are performing EMS functions, **follow EMS protocols**.

### EMS



- Wear appropriate PPE.
- Interview the family.
- If **SUSPECTED Infectious Patient**, call DHH/Office of Public Health/Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ID EPI) Section at **1-800-256-2748** prior to transport.
- Ensure **DECON** of **ambulance** as soon as patient is moved from ambulance to ER.
- Safely **remove** PPE; follow **CDC guidelines** for disposal.

### RISK



### PPE



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LOUISIANA  
EBOLA  
PREPAREDNESS



DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH  
AND HOSPITALS

