



EPIDEMIOLOGY & SURVEILLANCE

Health Care Services
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Reporting a Suspected Case of Ebola

Collin County Health Care Services
Business Hours: 972-548-4707 After Hours: 972-547-5350

Person Under Investigation (PUI) Classification

When reporting a suspected case of Ebola to Collin County Health Care Services the following definition for PUI will be used.

A clinically compatible case characterized by abrupt onset of fever and accompanied by one or more of the following symptoms: severe headache, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, fatigue, weakness, myalgia, unexplained bleeding or bruising, or development of a maculopapular rash. That meets one or more of the following exposures within 21-days before onset of symptoms:

- Contact with blood or other body fluids of a patient with EVD, **OR**
- Residence in—or travel to—an EVD endemic area or area currently classified by CDC as experiencing an Ebola outbreak, **OR**
- Handling EVD specimens in a laboratory setting, **OR**
- Work in a laboratory that handles primates, bats, or rodents from endemic areas, **OR**
- Exposure to semen or breast-milk of an individual who had EVD within the last 9 months

Alternative Diagnosis

Make sure to consider an alternative diagnosis such as malaria.

Control Measures Checklist

If you have a suspected PUI in your facility use the following control measures check list:

- Isolate patient.
- Implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions.
- Utilize appropriate PPE (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/guidance.html>)
- To protect healthcare workers during care of a patient with EVD, healthcare facilities must provide onsite management and oversight on the safe use of PPE and implement administrative and environmental controls with continuous safety checks through direct observation of healthcare workers during the PPE donning and doffing processes.
- A list should be kept of all persons who are in proximity of the patient at the health care facility including time, location, and type of contact.

Patient Meets Person Under Investigation Criteria: Next Steps

Conference Call

- A conference call between the acute care facility, Collin County Health Care Services (CCHCS), The Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS), The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and UT Southwestern will take place.
- On this call a PUI number will be assigned by CDC.
- This call will arrange testing for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and patient transfer.

Testing Patient for EVD

- Collect two purple top EDTA plastic tubes of blood with a minimum volume of 4 mLs each.
- It is not necessary to separate and remove serum or plasma from the primary collection container.
- Specimens should be immediately stored at 2-8°C or transported immediately testing.
- Local LRN lab (DCHHS) will complete testing. Estimated test time: 2-4 hours.

Transfer to Higher Level Care Facility

- Transfer will be conducted by the Regional Ebola Transfer Ambulance (RETA). This is activated by public health. Estimated preparation time for transport: 6-12 hours.
- Higher level care facility for DFW area is UT Southwestern Medical Center Dallas. Estimated preparation time to receive patient: 6-12 Hours.
- It should be noted that the acute care facility can continue to care for suspected EVD patient until testing has been completed. At this point a confirmed case would trigger transfer to UTMB at Galveston and by-pass UT Southwestern.

Transfer to EVD Treatment Hospital

- The EVD treatment facility for our region is UTMB at Galveston.
- Transfer will be conducted by the Regional Ebola Transfer Ambulance (RETA) to Love Field in Dallas for air transport. This is activated by public health.

*Please note this is a general overview of the steps involved for a suspected case of Ebola Virus Disease. Reference should be made to one's own facility policy and procedures on this subject. Any questions about this document should be directed at Collin County Health Care Services Epidemiology Department at 972-548-4707.