



**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**



GUIDELINES FOR EMS TRANSPORT OF INFECTIOUS PATIENTS

Consider any person with a history of international travel in the last 21 days from West Africa (specifically Guinea, Sierra Leone, or Liberia) or close contact with someone in the last month with recent travel from West Africa, as possibly having been exposed to the Ebola virus.

Patient may also have following symptoms:

- abdominal pain
- vomiting
- headache
- diarrhea
- muscle aches
- unexplained hemorrhage

A patient with the above symptoms, but no fever, should also be treated as a possible Ebola case if there is a positive travel history or contact with an individual with positive travel history.

WHEN TREATING PATIENTS SUSPECTED TO BE INFECTED WITH EBOLA VIRUS ALWAYS USE:

- **FULL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND**
- **SAFE NEEDLE PRACTICES**

If EBOLA VIRUS IS SUSPECTED, DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Implement standard, contact, and droplet infection prevention precautions:
 - **Gloves, fluid-resistant gowns, eye protection, and facemasks are essential**
- If there are **large amounts of body fluids**:
 - **Use double gloves, disposable shoe covers, and leg coverings**
- Limit pre-hospital procedures to those that are absolutely necessary
- If **intubation** or **nebulizer** treatment is required:
 - **Paramedic should wear an N95 mask**
- Notify receiving facility** of possible Ebola patient en route:
 - **Avoid transporting patient through waiting rooms at hospital**
 - **Do not leave patient unattended**
- Report transport of suspected patients to **EMS Regional consultant**
- Complete decontamination of EMS unit with EPA registered disinfectant to inactivate Ebola virus is required:
 - **Safe handling of potentially contaminated materials is essential**

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

CONTACT THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: 615-741-7247

