

## DHPD Communicable Disease Guidance



This information is intended as a general refresher of DHPD policy and procedure for the handling of possible communicable disease cases. Please refer to policy, protocol or contact base for specific situations.

## Denver Health Paramedic Division

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## Denver Health Paramedic Division

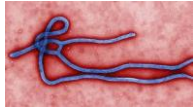
### Communicable Disease Situation Report



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# Communicable Disease



The Ebola Virus

## History

The current Ebola outbreak in West Africa has increased the possibility of patients with Ebola traveling from the affected countries to the United States. The recent case in Texas has increased awareness across the nation and in Colorado. The likelihood of contracting Ebola is extremely low unless a person has direct unprotected contact with the body fluids of a person infected with the virus. Infected patients are contagious when they are symptomatic.

The incubation period for Ebola is from 2-21 days. Anyone with symptoms and a history of travel to West Africa, or possible exposure to an infected patient should have appropriate precautions taken during their evaluation and care.

## Signs & Symptoms

- Early
  - Fever
  - Weakness
  - Malaise
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
- Late
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Rash (~5<sup>th</sup> day)
  - Impaired kidney/liver function
  - bleeding

## Precautions/PPE

1. Distance (3-6 feet away from a contagious patient significantly decreases exposure)
2. Gloves/Gowns/Masks/Eye Protection
3. Limit Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP)
4. Dispose of soiled disposable equipment in biohazard waste



containers

5. Decontaminate durable medical equipment standard cleaning techniques (the virus is fragile and our normal solutions readily kill it)

## Notification

Ensure the receiving facility is aware of a possible communicable disease patient well in advance.

Contact Base for consultation

The Attending Physician will notify Denver Public Health by calling 303-602-3697

## DIA

Report possible cases to Base (who will notify DPH/CDPHE/CDC if necessary by calling 303-602-3697)

### *DHPD Preparations/precautions*

1. *Preparedness discussions with DPH and DIA*
2. *Ensure stock of PPE available for all crews*
3. *Update to Medical Direction on procedures*
4. *Updating EMD cards*
5. *Dispatch will advise 'code-19' on responses with possible infection*