

TO: Vermont Healthcare Providers, Ambulatory Care Centers, and Hospitals
FROM: Patsy Kelso PhD, State Epidemiologist for Infectious Disease

Ebola Guidance for Outpatient Settings

All healthcare settings should be prepared to identify patients with symptoms of Ebola virus disease with onset within 21 days of traveling to affected countries in West Africa.

Requested Actions

While the epidemic in West Africa is ongoing, intake staff should *routinely ask all patients* whether they have traveled to Guinea, Sierra Leone, or Liberia in the preceding 21 days.

If a patient has a travel history to one of these three countries AND fever or Ebola-compatible symptoms (headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or hemorrhage):

1. Place the patient in an exam room or other separate area with the door closed.
2. Minimize the number of staff interacting with the patient. Staff interacting with the patient should follow Standard, Droplet, and Contact Precautions.
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>
3. Call the Health Department (24/7) at (802) 863-7240 to determine if evaluation for Ebola is needed. Be prepared to describe the patient's travel history, possible exposures to Ebola, and presenting symptoms (including temperature), signs, and duration of illness.

The Health Department epidemiologist will discuss possible recommendations for testing and can assist in arranging transport of the patient for further workup and testing if indicated.

Do not refer patients to the Emergency Department, hospital or other facility without consulting the Health Department by calling 802-863-7240.

The attached Ebola patient advisory sign is available on the Health Department website.

Additional Information:

http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/ebola/vt_hcp.aspx
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.