



Thomas Jefferson EMS Council, Inc.  
Regional Response Guideline  
Potential EVD (Ebola Virus Disease) patients

Information on EVD is a dynamic situation; therefore information in this guideline may change frequently. Updates to this guideline will be posted on the TJEMS website ([www.tjems.org](http://www.tjems.org)) as they are made. At all times administrative personnel/providers/etc. are to follow the recommendations of the CDC.

PSAP (public safety answer point):

- During call taking process the Communication Officer are encouraged to:
  - Use travel screening tool (See Appendix A)
    - Call types to use screening tool
      - Sick person
        - N/V, fever, malaise, muscle aches, fatigue, headache, weakness
      - Hemorrhage (internal or non-traumatic)
      - Chest pain
      - Respiratory distress
      - Abdominal pain
      - Seizure
      - Unresponsive
    - Communication Officers will alert dispatched unit using the following designated regional alert information, if travel screening tool is positive:
      - Use “Fever/travel precautions” to alert responders to what type of patient they may be dealing with.
      - This designation may be different in other Regional EMS Council areas.
      - Modified responses may be in order in an effort to minimize personnel exposure
        - Recommendation for a “single” unit response (i.e. no fire apparatus, ambulance only)

Agency Responders

- Upon arrival
  - Send a **single responder**, adequately trained in and equipped with appropriate PPE, to:
    - Re-confirm travel screen
    - Assess patient:
      - Minimally ill patients
        - Assessment = pulse
      - More seriously ill patients
        - Assessment should be made through an indirect method (i.e.

through a door, etc.)

- If travel screen is confirmed to be positive, the provider should then:
  - Obtain a phone number in order for VDH staff to contact the patient directly
  - Call Virginia Department of Health
  - Normal business hours 8am – 430pm, Monday – Friday
    - Planning District 10
      - 1-434-972-6200
    - Planning District 9 (for Madison County)
      - 1-540-948-5481
    - After hours, weekend, holidays
      - 1-866-531-3068
      - Call Order:
        - Dr. Charles Devine = 1-540-533-2269
        - Ryan McKay = 1-434-964-8662
  - Providers should expect the VDH staff to:
    - Ask further questions in regards to the travel screen
    - What type of exposures they would have had
    - Travel dates
    - Make transport decision and contact hospital in addition to the provider

## Transport

- If EMS transport is determined to be necessary
  - Patient
    - Place a surgical mask on patient
  - Provider
    - Limit the number of providers in the back of the unit
  - Unit
    - Patient compartment must be “sheeted” with minimally 3mil plastic sheeting taped to the ceiling of unit using painters tape.
    - Non-disposable equipment should be moved to an exterior compartment and/or passenger seat.
    - Disposable equipment may also be moved to prevent contamination.
  - If patient is ambulatory
    - Have patient move to the unit under their own power
  - If patient is not ambulatory
    - Contact appropriate communication center; request additional personnel to respond to scene for vehicle operation and preparedness.
  - Provider is to contact appropriate hospital with a patient report via land-line (preferred), if not feasible, then radio communication can be done using the regional alert designation

- Transport to destination as facilitated by VDH.
  - UVA – transport to loading dock
    - 1-434-924-9287 to make report
  - MJH/Sentara – transport to ED
    - 1-434-654-7150 to make report
- Upon arrival at facility
  - Attendant is to remain in unit with patient
    - UVA
      - Personnel will meet unit to escort patient and crew to appropriate location
    - MJH/Sentara – ED
      - Further direction will be given upon arrival at facility
    - Other facilities
      - Follow direction of the facility

### Post transport

- Providers
  - Decontamination –
    - Providers will doff and dispose of PPE utilizing CDC recommendations see CDC recommendations for doffing PPE at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>
    - In appropriate area
    - The use of the “buddy system” is required
- Ambulance –
  - Decontamination
    - See appendix B
- Waste
  - If patient is transported, waste is to be left at facility
  - No patient transport
    - Follow DEQ (Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality) recommendations at: [www.deq.virginia.gov](http://www.deq.virginia.gov)

### Provider return to service criteria

- Follow recommendations of VDH