

Ebola Virus EMS Health Alert

MedStar Washington Hospital Center | Children's National Hospital | Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center



In May 2026, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention issued a statement about an ongoing outbreak of Ebola virus, a rare but highly fatal viral hemorrhagic fever, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). EMS clinicians should be mindful of the potential for Ebola virus in patients who have recently traveled to the DRC or have had contact with someone known to have Ebola.

1. Identify: When to Suspect



Travel to the DRC, Uganda, or South Sudan; or contact with a known Ebola patient, within the last 21 days

and

Symptoms:

- Fever, chills
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Chest pain
- Bleeding

- Altered mental status
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea
- Shortness of breath



2. Isolate: Protecting Personnel and the Public



Patient Isolation

- Place face mask on patient
- Wrap the patient using impervious suit/sheet



PPE for Suspected, DRY*, Stable Cases

- Impermeable gown / coverall
- Face shield + N95
- Two pairs of gloves



PPE for Confirmed, WET**, and/or Unstable Patients

- Impermeable gown / coverall
- PAPR or N95 + hood + face shield
- Two pairs of gloves
- Boot covers
- Apron

* DRY = Not exhibiting obvious bleeding, vomiting, or diarrhea

** WET = Exhibiting obvious bleeding, vomiting, or diarrhea

3. Inform: Notify Receiving Facility

Pre-hospital clinicians should call or radio ahead to receiving facilities of their concerns for Ebola. In order to limit exposures, do not bring the patient into the ED until approved by the ED team. Follow your agency's operational guidelines for reporting within your EMS agency.



4. Post-Transfer Issues

All exposed equipment should be cleaned and disinfected using an EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant while wearing PPE. Soiled laundry and trash should be handled following your organization's guidelines for special pathogens. Agencies should consider monitoring providers for signs/symptoms of Ebola, while engaging with public health officials to coordinate.



Contact Region 3 EMS Outreach:

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Additional References: [CDC](#) [NETEC](#)



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