

Cover Sheet

DATE: November 24, 2014

SUBJECT: Active monitoring of individuals returning from Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Mali

INSTRUCTIONS:

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- Time for Forwarding: **3 Business Days**
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For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only

DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:

**DPHHS CDCP
Epidemiology Section
1-406-444-0273**

**DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769**

**DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov**

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Categories of Health Alert Messages:

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.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please call DPHHS to update contact information at 444-0919

Information Sheet

Date: November 24, 2014

Subject: Active monitoring of individuals returning from Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Mali

Background: Public health officials at all levels are working collaboratively to respond to the Ebola outbreak originating in Western Africa. As part of this effort, individuals entering the US from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Mali receive a health screening upon arrival. Individuals without an immediate health concern are allowed to proceed to their final destination and information regarding their risks is shared with local public health officials.

Information: As of Monday, November 24th, 13 people in 5 counties have been reported to the Montana state health department. All 13 were healthy have potential Ebola exposures as a result of travel and/or work in one of the impacted countries listed above.

In each instance, information on the person was provided to local public health authorities and procedures for monitoring the individual's health for 21 days since the past possible exposure are established. Part of the procedure involved the development of a "care plan" that could be activated in the event a fever or other symptom of concern is identified. The care plan identified a health care facility that could assist with patient assessment and possible testing in the event of a concern.

To date, 7 of the 13 have completed their monitoring periods without an issue. As the Ebola outbreak in parts of Western Africa continues, public health authorities expect additional travelers will require monitoring and additional providers will be asked to assist in the event a symptom of concern is identified.

While the screening procedures will assist us with monitoring individuals with a potential exposure, it is possible that a patient unknown to public health could present for care. As a result, we encourage all health care providers to continue to assess individuals with symptoms of concern for possible exposures as outlined in the CDC guidance attached and contact public health authorities immediately if a concern is identified.

Recommendations:

Providers:

- 1) Be aware that travelers will be returning and may be assigned to your public health jurisdiction and that in the event of a health concern individuals may require a medical evaluation.
- 2) Continue to be vigilant for *any patient that lived in or traveled to a country with widespread Ebola transmission or had contact with an individual with confirmed Ebola Virus Disease within the previous 21 days.*

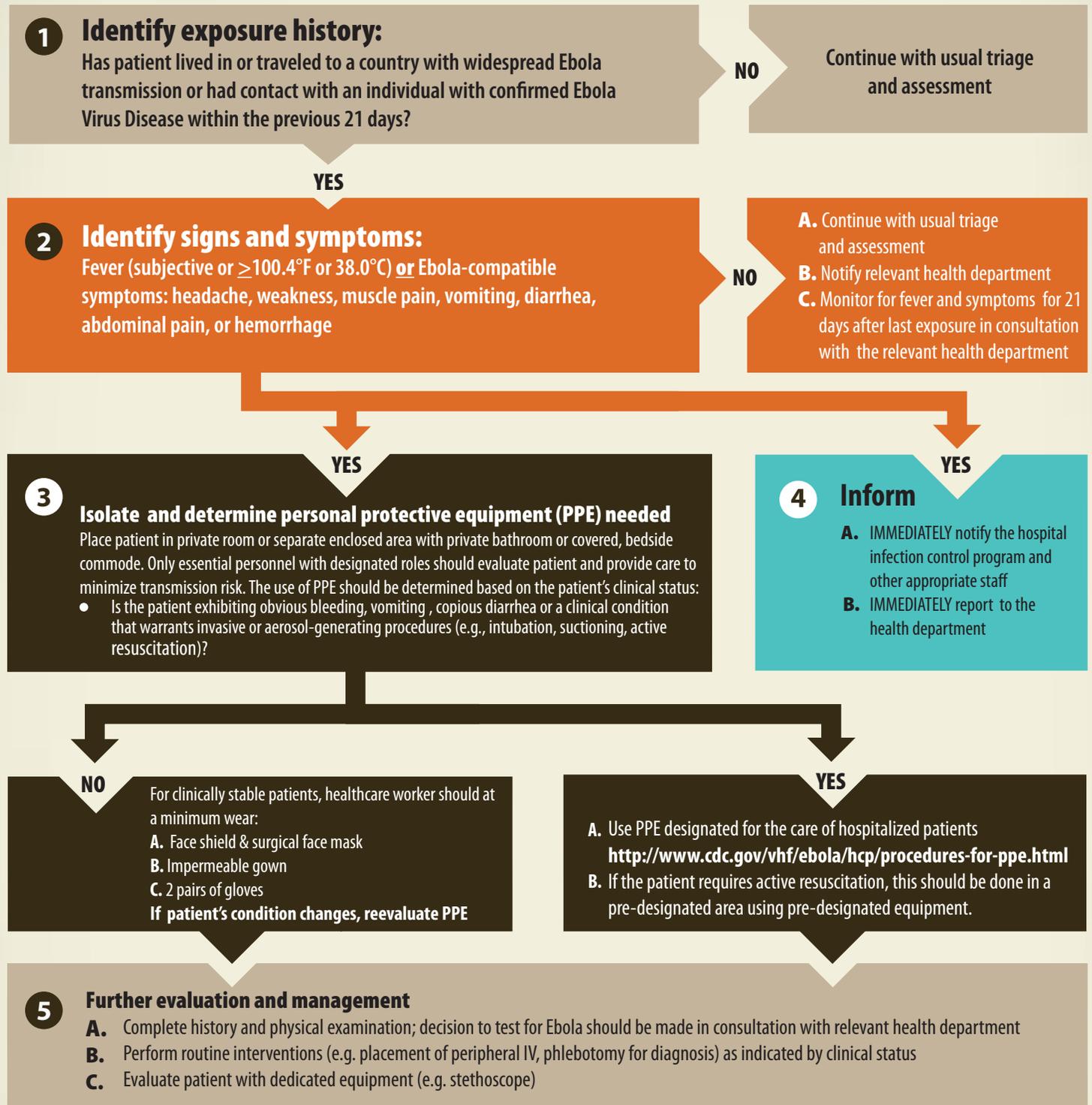
- 3) Know the processes for evaluating patients who might be at risk for EVD including 24/7 contact information for your local health jurisdiction.

Local Health Jurisdictions:

Local health departments and DPHHS play a key role to ensure prompt notification, access to testing, and monitoring of individuals with possible exposures. The DPHHS CDEpi program will work with your jurisdiction regarding active monitoring of individuals with possible exposures.

- 1) Insert your contact information- business and after hours numbers in the block on the bottom of the CDC flowchart that is attached.
- 2) Review the flow-chart closely noting the role of your health department in the processes related to monitoring and consultation regarding testing.
- 3) Distribute to urgent cares and ERs and encourage them to share widely with relevant partners.

Identify, Isolate, Inform: Emergency Department Evaluation and Management of Patients with Possible Ebola Virus Disease



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Contact Public Health at:

If unable to reach local public health authorities, contact DPHHS at 444-0273

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This is an official
CDC HEALTH ADVISORY

Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network
November 24, 2014, 12:15 ET (12:15 PM ET)
CDCHAN-00372

Enhanced Airport Entry Screening and Active Post-Arrival Monitoring for People Traveling to the United States from Mali

Summary

On November 13, 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a travel alert (Level 2) for Mali following reports of a cluster of Ebola cases in Bamako, Mali, that were linked to a man who had become sick in Guinea and traveled to Bamako, Mali. CDC is working with the government of Mali, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other partners to control further spread of Ebola in Mali. In addition, CDC is working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to expand enhanced entry screening at U.S. airports and post-arrival monitoring of people whose travel originates in Mali.

The purpose of this HAN Advisory is to inform public health officials and the public of the following additional precautions taken to reduce the risk of Ebola cases entering the United States from Mali:

- ***Effective Monday, November 17, people arriving into the United States whose travel began in Mali are subject to the same enhanced entry screening activities, including health and Ebola exposure assessments that are already in place for travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.***
- ***All travelers entering the United States from Mali are subject to the 21-day active post-arrival monitoring and movement protocols now in effect for travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, with twice-daily temperature and symptom checks in coordination with state or local public health authorities.***

Background

CDC is working closely with other U.S. government agencies, WHO, ministries of health, and other international partners in a global emergency response to the current epidemic of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Beginning in October 2014, a series of actions were taken to reduce the risk of air travelers with Ebola entering the United States undetected, particularly if they are symptomatic. Almost all travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone to the United States are now routed through one of five airports (New York JFK, Newark, Washington-Dulles, Chicago-O'Hare, and Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson) where enhanced entry screening is conducted by DHS and CDC. All travelers are evaluated according to their risk level of exposure to Ebola while they had been in Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone. Travelers also undergo active post-arrival monitoring, which means that those without fever or symptoms consistent with Ebola (e.g., muscle pain, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting), and who are not considered as high risk and allowed to travel to their final destination are followed up daily by state and local health departments for a period lasting 21 days from the date of their departure from West Africa. People who are symptomatic are isolated and medically evaluated. CDC is providing assistance with active post-arrival monitoring to state and local health departments, including information on travelers arriving in their states, and upon request, is providing technical support, consultation, and funding.

Since November 10, CDC has been working with WHO and other partners in response to reports of a cluster of Ebola cases in Bamako, Mali. The cluster of cases in Bamako is linked to a man who had

traveled to Bamako after becoming sick in Guinea. Public health authorities in Mali and Guinea are actively investigating a number of confirmed cases of Ebola in Mali in recent days. CDC has deployed a team of experts to Mali to assist in the investigation and control efforts. On November 13, CDC released a travel alert (Warning, Level 2) recommending that travelers to Mali protect themselves by avoiding contact with the blood and body fluids of people who are sick because of the possibility such persons may be sick with Ebola.

As a further precaution, CDC and the DHS have added Mali to the list of nations (i.e., Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) for which enhanced screening and active post-arrival monitoring measures will be taken.

Precautionary Measures Implemented

Effective Monday, November 17, people arriving in the United States whose travel began in Mali are subject to the same enhanced entry screening activities, including health and Ebola exposure assessments, which are already in place for travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

In addition, all travelers entering the United States from Mali are subject to the 21-day active post-arrival monitoring and movement protocols now in effect for travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, with twice-daily temperature and symptom checks in coordination with state or local public health authorities.

DHS will work with the airlines to ensure re-routing for the few travelers from Mali not already scheduled to land at one of the five airports in the United States (New York JFK, Newark, Washington-Dulles, Chicago-O'Hare, and Atlanta Jackson-Hartsfield) that are already performing screening on passengers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

For More Information

For additional information about the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, visit CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national, and international organizations.

Categories of Health Alert Network messages:

Health Alert Requires immediate action or attention; highest level of importance
Health Advisory May not require immediate action; provides important information for a specific incident or situation
Health Update Unlikely to require immediate action; provides updated information regarding an incident or situation
HAN Info Service Does not require immediate action; provides general public health information

##This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations##