



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

October 7, 2022

Dear Colleague:

On September 20, 2022, the Ministry of Health of Uganda officially declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) due to Sudan virus (species Sudan ebolavirus) in Mubende District, Central Uganda. As of October 6, 2022, a total of 44 confirmed cases, including 10 confirmed deaths of EVD have been identified in Uganda. The geographic scope of this outbreak in Uganda is currently limited to five districts in central Uganda (Mubende, Kassanda, Kyegegwa, Kagadi and Bunyangabu) and not the capital Kampala or the travel hub of Entebbe. **At this time, there have been no cases identified in other countries, including none in the United States or in Maryland.** However, in response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network Health Advisory about the outbreak. The CDC Health Advisory is available at <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00477.asp>.

**Given the potential for travelers from Uganda to arrive in Maryland, the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) would like to ensure that you are aware of this outbreak and related clinical recommendations.**

#### **Recommendations for Maryland Clinicians:**

MDH reminds Maryland clinicians to follow the “**IDENTIFY, ISOLATE and INFORM**” paradigm for any suspected cases of viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) diseases, including EVD. (<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/emergency-services/emergency-departments.html>).

More specifically, we recommend the following:

- **Identify** promptly any patients with clinical symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, and unexplained bleeding and consider Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) or EVD on the differential **Immediately take a travel history from all such patients.**
- **Isolate** any patients suspected of EVD or a VHF in a private room while performing clinical evaluation. Conduct any aerosol generating procedures in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) when feasible.
- **Inform** immediately the local health department or the MDH Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau at 410-767-6700 during business hours and 410-795-7365 after hours. The health department will work with you on ensuring appropriate evaluation, including testing for EVD if indicated, and transfer to another care facility should that be appropriate.

**It is important to note that healthcare personnel can be exposed to Ebola virus by touching a patient's body fluids, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, or contaminated environmental surfaces.** Splashes to unprotected mucous membranes (for example, the eyes, nose, or mouth) are particularly hazardous. Procedures that can increase environmental contamination with infectious material or create aerosols should be minimized. CDC recommends a combination of measures to prevent transmission of EVD in healthcare settings, including appropriate PPE (See <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/evd/infection-control.html>)

In addition, testing for other travel-associated illnesses which may present similarly to EVD, such as malaria, or other infections including COVID-19 and influenza, should be considered as well.

### **Additional Resources:**

#### General Ebola Information

- [General Resources for Ebola Virus Disease](#)

#### Clinician Resources

- [Ebola Virus Disease Information for Clinicians in U.S. Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Screening Patients for Ebola Virus Disease](#)
- [Considerations for Discharging People Under Investigation \(PUIs\) for Ebola Virus Disease](#)

#### Infection Prevention Resources

- [Interim Guidance for U.S. Hospital Preparedness for Patients Under Investigation \(PUIs\) or with Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients Under Investigation \(PUIs\) for Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\) in U.S. Hospitals](#)
- [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) | Public Health Planners | Ebola \(Ebola Virus Disease\) | CDC Cleaning and disinfecting](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus](#)
- [Procedures for Safe Handling and Management of Ebola-Associated Waste](#)

Thank you for your attention to this important public health matter. We will provide additional updates as needed. If you have questions, please call the MDH Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau at 410-767-6700 during business hours and 410-795-7365 after hours.

Sincerely,



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