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HEALTH ALERT OCTOBER 17, 2014

IDENTIFYING SUSPECTED EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) IN PATIENTS PRESENTING TO PRIMARY CARE AND OTHER OUTPATIENT SETTINGS

All healthcare providers, including those in primary care and other outpatient settings, should be prepared to identify a patient presenting with fever and recent travel from one of the Ebola-affected areas*.

Ebola virus disease should be suspected in patients presenting with fever or compatible symptoms (headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or hemorrhage) **and** travel to an Ebola-affected area* within 21 days of illness onset.

Healthcare providers should:

- **Post** signs by entry and triage areas asking patients to immediately inform staff if they are ill and recently traveled to countries with active Ebola outbreaks*.
- **Establish** a routine process to immediately ask any patient presenting with **fever** about travel. Travel history is essential to the recognition of patients with Ebola or other imported diseases.
- **Consider** EVD in patients using CDC algorithm and checklist:
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-algorithm.pdf>
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/checklist-patients-evaluated-us-evd.pdf>

If You Have a Suspect Ebola Patient:

1. **Immediately place** patient and any accompanying friends or family members in a private room with closed door.
2. **Call** the Contra Costa Health Officer On-Call at **(925) 313-6740** during business hours or at **(925) 646-2441 after hours** and describe the patient's:
 - i. Confirmed travel history to an Ebola-affected area within 21 days of illness onset*
 - ii. Symptoms, signs, and duration of illness
3. **Do NOT refer suspect Ebola patients to an Emergency Department, hospital, or other facility without first consulting with the Health Officer On-Call**

*For an updated list of affected areas: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html#areas>

Contra Costa Public Health's Ebola information: www.cchealth.org/ebola

Sample signs for posting in health care facilities: [http://cdph.ca.gov/programs/cder/Documents/Ebola%20Flyer%20-%20IMM%201144%20\(8.14\).pdf](http://cdph.ca.gov/programs/cder/Documents/Ebola%20Flyer%20-%20IMM%201144%20(8.14).pdf)
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/em/hospital-signs-tabloid.pdf>
Additional languages available: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/hcp/infectious-diseases.shtml>

CDC Ebola information for healthcare workers: www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/

