

New Mexico Department of Health Guidance for Early Recognition of Ebola Virus Disease in Outpatient Settings

Outpatient clinic settings should be prepared to perform early recognition of patients with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). NMDOH has advised outpatient providers to take a travel history on all patients presenting for care in New Mexico. If a patient is in an outpatient clinic and reports a positive travel history within 21 days to an Ebola affected country (i.e., Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, or Mali), the patient should be assessed for signs and symptoms of EVD which include fever (subjective or $\geq 100.4^{\circ}$ F or 38° C), severe headache, myalgia, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained bleeding. These criteria are included in the current NMDOH Ebola Evaluation Algorithm posted at <http://nmhealth.org/about/erd/ideb/evd/>.

If a patient reports a travel history within the past 21 days to Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, or Mali and has any signs and symptoms of EVD, the patient should be isolated in a single room with a private bathroom and the door closed. NMDOH should be immediately consulted 24/7/365 at 505-827-0006. Access to the patient room should be restricted. Only essential healthcare personnel, who are wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (standard, contact, droplet precautions), should enter. When possible, close contact with the patient should be avoided and a minimum three foot distance from the patient should be maintained.

If the patient is calling for an appointment and reports a positive travel history within 21 days to an Ebola affected country, the outpatient clinic staff should verify the patient's physical address and contact telephone numbers. The patient should be asked to remain at home and told that NMDOH will be contacting them shortly to further discuss their travel history, signs and symptoms, and potential exposure risk. If it is determined that the patient has a positive travel history within 21 days to an Ebola affected country and has signs and symptoms consistent with EVD, NMDOH will assist in coordinating patient transport via EMS to an appropriate hospital for further evaluation.

For either an in-person visit or a phone call with a patient with positive travel history within 21 days to an Ebola affected country, even without signs or symptoms of EVD, outpatient providers should contact NMDOH 24/7/365 at 505-827-0006 for consultation. If the patient is felt to have a medical emergency, the outpatient provider should call 9-1-1 prior to notifying NMDOH so that there is no delay in appropriate medical care and advise the dispatcher of the positive travel history and related concern for EVD so that EMS personnel can take appropriate infection prevention precautions. CDC checklists highlighting key areas for Ebola preparedness for healthcare providers and facilities can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html>.