

On September 30, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the United States in a person who traveled to Dallas, Texas from Liberia.

The NYSDOH is advising health care providers and facilities to review the new CDC health advisory regarding recommendations for evaluating patients for possible Ebola virus disease (EVD). This advisory is included in the attached pdf. Main points from this advisory are reminders to:

Increase vigilance in inquiring about a history of travel to West Africa in the 21 days before illness onset for any patient presenting with fever or other symptoms consistent with EVD

- Isolate patients who report a travel history to an Ebola-affected country (currently Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) and who are exhibiting EVD symptoms in a private room with a private bathroom and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions (gowns, facemask, eye protection, and gloves); and
- Immediately notify the local health department

Travel history should be asked of all patients who present with symptoms such as fever (greater than 101.5°F or 38.6°C), severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal (stomach) pain, or unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising) at initial presentation in EDs or reception in primary or urgent care settings. Signage asking patients to provide travel history should also be prominently posted. Rapid recognition of possible EVD cases is critical to protecting health and safety.

The NYSDOH is also advising health care providers and facilities to review previously released CDC and NYSDOH guidance on EVD. See the full PDF attached.

The NYSDOH is advising health care providers and facilities to utilize the algorithm/decision guide included in this advisory when evaluating patients for potential EVD.

Hospitals and other healthcare providers are strongly encouraged to perform drills in the early identification and isolation of suspected EVD patients to review plans for hospitalization of a suspect or confirmed EVD patient, and to identify and train staff who would provide care to a suspect or confirmed EVD patient. The drills should include staff and rehearse procedures for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

We have also received the following updated message from the CDC - Ebola Key Messages - [please click here.](#)

Click [here](#) to unsubscribe from this mailing list.