 Health Care Facility Special Pathogen Preparedness Checklist

On September 20, 2022, the Uganda Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization confirmed a new outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the Mubende district of Uganda in West Africa. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a health advisory on October 6, 2022, urging U.S. health care providers to be alert and prepared to evaluate patients suspected of having EVD, particularly among people who have recently traveled to affected areas in Uganda. All health care facilities are part of the frontline defense against the spread of disease, as patients will seek care in emergency departments, urgent care centers and clinics. Health care facility preparedness to care for patients with a viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) is essential to prevent transmission to staff, other patients and our communities.

In response to this serious situation, NETEC developed the Health Care Facility Special Pathogen Checklist as a VHF planning tool for all health care facilities to assess their readiness to identify, isolate, inform, and provide initial treatment for patients suspected or confirmed to have a VHF. This checklist is intended to guide facilities through a review of their immediate care capabilities and provide resources to assist in the resolution of preparedness gaps it reveals.

For a more in-depth assessment of your special pathogen program, we recommend requesting to complete the NETEC Special Pathogen Operational Readiness Self-Assessment ([SPORSA](https://netec.org/readiness-assessments/hospital-assessment-areas/hospital-readiness-assessment-sign-up/)).

Visit [www.NETEC.org](http://www.NETEC.org) for more information.

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# IDENTIFY

Identify is the first step of the Identify, Isolate and Inform framework for health care facilities to quickly recognize and safely manage patients who have the potential to spread disease. Screening all patients upon entry to a facility for signs, symptoms, and epidemiological risk factors for VHF will facilitate early identification of a patient at risk for having the disease.

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| Identify Readiness Items |
| **#** | **Item**  | **Status**Yes or No | **Notes** |
| **1.** | Screening for symptoms and travel history occurs at all points of entry to the facility including those arriving by EMS. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **2.** | Signage is present at all points of entry into the health system to enable patients to self-identify if their symptoms are consistent with a VHF. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **3.** | Staff have received training on the identify process. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |

## Identify Resource/ Guidance

NETEC Town Hall: Preparing Frontline Health Care Workers for Ebola

<https://youtu.be/Okh_Sa9cVa4>

Identify Worksheet:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/c1c81476c9626fd1d8f8be5fa75f9ad3.pdf>

Global Outbreak Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/outbreaks/index.html>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/TravelClinicalAssistant>

Screening Algorithm Example:

[https://repository.netecweb.org/items/show/458 [repository.netecweb.org]](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/repository.netecweb.org/items/show/458__;!!JkUDQA!KETG7fcy4lc3qDYe9jvz-B3fuLUM56oGOFb8C2tgX2E55LZvfRC_zCYDNooAxfL8nLpcRLA1khoJ9KiJBsG15g$)

Identify Isolate Inform Webinar/ Course:

<https://youtu.be/QkGflp7W7Cc>

<https://courses.netec.org/courses/identify-isolate-inform>

Mystery Patient Drill Kit:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/pdfs/specialpathogenmysterydrill.zip>

# Isolate

Isolate is the second step of the Identify, Isolate and Inform framework for health care facilities to quickly recognize and safely manage patients who have the potential to spread disease. Rapid isolation allows infection prevention and control measures to be implemented to reduce exposure to staff, visitors, and other patients.

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| Isolate Readiness Items |
| **#** | **Item**  | **Status**Yes or No | **Notes** |
| **1.** | Masks are available at all points of entry for patients entering the facility.  | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **2.** | An isolation space has been identified and:*\*Refer to the Isolation Worksheet in Resources* *for more detailed guidance* | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2a. | Staff are oriented to its location. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2b. | The process for using the space has been developed and tested (e.g., moving out other patients or extra equipment, initiating negative pressure). | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2c. | A checklist has been developed to direct the preparation of the isolation space.  | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2d. | There is a private restroom or bedside commode available. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2e. | The isolation space is an AIIR, or a portable negative pressure unit is available if needed. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2f. | There is a process for communication to occur into and out of the room. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2g. | There is a process to document which staff enter the isolation space. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **3.** | There is a plan for the internal transfer of a patient from the point of entry to the isolation space.The plan includes the following: | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 3a. | Ability to minimize personnel along the route to the isolation space. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 3b. | Preparing the isolation space for the patient arrival. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| *3c.* | Personnel who have been trained on the process. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **4.** | Staff who will work in the isolation area have been trained on special pathogen workflows and processes. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |

## Isolation Resources/ Guidance

Isolation Worksheet:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/77003e56292b75db4d90bccdea9120ca.pdf>

CDC Guidance on Hospital Room Infection Control for Ebola Virus:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/cleaning/hospitals.html>

Containment Wrap Protocol:

 <https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/b68363bffb7eec4a6189ada3a480317f.pdf>

Log Sheet

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/78157aefeb472e0d99e0300509f72a1a.pdf>

# Inform

Inform is the third step of the Identify, Isolate, and Inform framework for health care facilities to quickly recognize and safely manage patients who have the potential to spread disease. The Inform process ensures efficient communication processes are in place to alert internal and external stakeholders to the presence of a person under investigation (PUI) for VHF.

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| Inform Readiness Items |
| **#** | **Item**  | **Status**Yes or No | **Notes** |
| **1.** | Key personnel internal (e.g., Infection preventionists, health care administrator, etc.) to your facility who will provide support and/or be involved in the care of a PUI have been identified.  | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **2.** | Key partners both internal and external to your facility, such as county and state public health partners, have been identified and staff know who to inform. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **3.** | Contact information for internal and external key personnel is readily accessible. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **4.** | Staff who will inform key personnel are knowledgeable on the process, including what information to provide. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |

## Inform Resources/ Guidance

Inform Worksheet:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/a537618495fdb8be570540cb604ca035.pdf>

CDC Health Alert Network:

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/>

Health Department Directories:

<https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/index.html>

# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE ensembles worn during the care of patients suspected or confirmed to have a VHF must provide enhanced contact and droplet protection, should consider the condition of the patient, and the risk of exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials posed by care tasks. Complex PPE ensembles require additional training to ensure staff safety and may require additional personnel to assist in doffing. The use of a trained observer is also recommended to ensure correct donning and safe doffing.

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| PPE Readiness Items |
| **#** | **Item** | **Status**Yes or No | **Notes** |
| **1.** | The PPE ensemble has been selected based on pathogen transmission and patient condition, e.g., wet vs dry. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **2.** | Staff have received training on VHF PPE donning and doffing protocols. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **3.** | There is a clean space to don PPE and a separate safe space to doff PPE. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **4.** | There is an adequate amount of appropriate PPE available to provide care for at least 1 patient for 24-48 hours. See DASH tool [HERE](https://dashtool.org/) for guidance on determining facility PPE supply needs. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **5.** | A trained observer is utilized to monitor activities in the isolation room and donning and doffing of PPE. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |

## PPE Resources/ Guidance

ASPR/TRACIE Disaster Available Supplies in Hospitals (DASH) tool

<https://dashtool.org>

CDC PPE Guidance for Ebola Virus Care:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/ppe/guidance.html>

Know Your PPE

<https://repository.netecweb.org/items/show/1053>

Space Recommendations for Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Biocontainment Areas

<https://repository.netecweb.org/items/show/1708>

Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers PPE Matrix:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/8c1dda9b0654d3013ddc57a29b960ab2.pdf>

# Treatment & Care

The goal of caring for patients suspected or confirmed to have a VHF is to provide safe, effective, high-quality patient care while maintaining the safety of all personnel.

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| Treatment and Care Readiness Items |
| **#** | **Item**  | **Status**Yes or No | **Notes** |
| **1.** | If a PUI arrives at your facility, personnel are familiar and have access to resources for just-in-time-training. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **2.** | The care interventions that can be safely provided for patients suspected or confirmed to have VHF have been discussed and clinicians are aware of how to safely offer care (e.g., diagnostic imaging, invasive procedures, specimen collection). | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **3.** | There is a plan to collaborate with public health to monitor personnel involved in the care of a patient with a confirmed diagnosis. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **4.** | Diagnostic testing for pathogen will be done in coordination with the public health department. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **5.** | If routine laboratory testing is required, dedicated point of care devices will be used. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **6.** | The facility has access to resources for guidance on packaging and shipment of presumed category A specimens.  | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **7.** | The facility is aware of available resources for decedent management and will seek support to conduct the process. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |

## Treatment and Care Resources/ Guidance

Treatment and Care Worksheet:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/71028eadfb30cd38c0ba31e01a5fa28a.pdf>

JIT Training Resources:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/exhibits/show/netec-education/justintime>

Laboratory Testing For Ebola:

<https://netec.org/2022/10/11/laboratory-testing-for-ebola/>

Laboratory Activation Checklist:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/760672f218efe45fdf61c2d96991b2c2.docx>

# Waste Management and Cleaning & Disinfection

Waste generated in the care of patients under investigation or patients with confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) is subject to procedures set forth by local, state, and federal regulations.  Basic principles for spills of blood and other potentially infectious materials are outlined in the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).  Waste contaminated (or suspected to be contaminated) with Ebola virus is a Category A infectious substance regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR, Parts 171-180). Requirements in the HMR apply to any material DOT determines is capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce. The EPA maintains lists of registered disinfectants that should be used to destroy certain pathogens.  For a list of disinfectants that are effective against the Ebola virus visit <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-l-disinfectants-use-against-ebola-virus#check>.

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| Waste Management and Cleaning and disinfection Items |
| **#** | **Item**  | **Status**Yes or No | **Notes** |
| **1.** | There is a plan for the management of waste generated during the care of a person suspected or confirmed to have a pathogen and it includes the following: | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 1a. | A designated waste holding area. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 1b. | Staff training on the waste management process including proper closure of the bags.  | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 1c. | Secure packaging/ containment of waste. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 1d. | If required, a vendor licensed to transport category A infectious substance will transport the waste for off-site inactivation. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **2.** | There is an isolation area cleaning and disinfection plan that includes the following: | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2a. | Guidance on the type of PPE to be worn when performing cleaning in the special pathogen isolation area. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| 2b. | A process to ensure an appropriate disinfectant has been selected and is available for use that is effective against the pathogen. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |

## Waste Management Resources/ Guidance

Managing Solid Waste Contaminated with a Category A Infectious Substance:

<https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/2022-06/Cat%20A%20Waste%20Planning%20Guidance_Final_2022_06.pdf>

Ebola-Associated Waste Management:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/cleaning/waste-management.html>

Fact Sheet. Safe Handlin, Treatment, Transport and Disposal of Ebola-Contaminated Waste:

https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA\_FS-3766.pdf

COVID-19 Waste Container Use:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/7cc5c14094799b74298210150878a02f.pdf>

Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus:

https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/cleaning/hospitals.html

# Transportation

Patients suspected or confirmed to have a VHF may require transportation either to or from your facility. Having a plan in place will facilitate the movement of the patient in a manner that maintains safety for facility and transportation staff.

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| Transportation Readiness Items |
| **#** | **Item** | **Status**Yes or No | **Notes** |
| **1.** | There is a plan to request the transfer of a patient suspected or confirmed to have a VHF.  | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |
| **2.** | Your facility has identified a specific location and established processes for the transfer of patient care between EMS personnel and facility personnel. | Yes [ ] No [ ]  | Click here to enter facility notes. |

## Transportation Resources/Guidance

Example: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Decontamination of an Ambulance that has Transported a Person under Investigation or Patient with Confirmed Ebola:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/emergency-services/ambulance-decontamination.html>

EMS Infectious Disease Playbook:

<https://www.ems.gov/pdf/ASPR-EMS-Infectious-Disease-Playbook-June-2017.pdf>

Example: Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Patient Handoff between a Health care Facility and a Transporting Ambulance

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/emergency-services/patient-handoff.html>

EMS biosafety: Identify, Isolate, Inform:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/4e07db6e4f6caba74c3d2a461447bb24.pdf>

Handoff Protocol Example:

<https://repository.netecweb.org/files/original/ae752dc3510f6b0804fe746a752a6f58.pdf>