



Special Bulletin

Monday, October 20, 2014

CDC RELEASES UPDATED EBOLA GUIDANCE FOR PROTECTION OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released updated protocols and guidance for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) related to Ebola and detailed, step-by-step instructions for how to safely put the equipment on and take it off.

To download the guidance, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>.

In releasing the guidelines, CDC Director Thomas Frieden, M.D., said it is “critically important every health care worker thinks Ebola.” He said that the detailed guidelines are centered around three key principles:

1. Prior to working with an Ebola patient, staff should undergo rigorous training and practice, and demonstrate competence in safely putting on and removing PPE.
2. No skin should be left exposed when PPE is worn.
3. A trained observer should watch every time personnel put on and remove PPE.

Frieden noted that PPE is only one aspect of infection control. It is critical to focus on additional prevention activities to stop the spread of Ebola, including continued vigilance in prompt screening and triage of patients. In addition, he emphasized that every health care facility treating an Ebola patient should have a dedicated site manager to ensure proper precautions are used, limit the number of personnel in the isolation room, and use effective environmental cleaning practices.

CDC will be increasing training opportunities and developing additional materials and videos, according to Frieden.

AHA staff is reviewing the guidance; watch for further analysis.

Please continue to watch your email for updates and the latest guidance. For additional resources, visit www.cdc.gov/ebola and www.aha.org/ebola.