

CDC ISSUES UPDATED GUIDANCE ON MONITORING INDIVIDUALS WITH POTENTIAL EXPOSURE AND ED PATIENT EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT

New Online Training Course Available

Below are highlights of new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding the monitoring and movement of individuals who have potentially been exposed to the virus and evaluation and management of potential cases in the emergency department (ED). In addition, the University of Nebraska Medical Center has released a free, online Ebola-related training course for clinicians.

CDC Guidance on Monitoring and Movement of Individuals Potentially Exposed to Ebola:

CDC late Oct. 27 released updated guidance (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>) for the monitoring of individuals who have potentially been exposed to Ebola. The guidance stratifies risk by four levels – high, some, low and no – and applies to individuals traveling from West Africa, as well as those who may be exposed in the United States.

Health care workers treating Ebola patients in the U.S. are considered low risk if they have worn proper personal protective equipment with no known breaches in infection control. However, if a health care worker treating someone with Ebola in the U.S. becomes sick with Ebola and it is not clear how he or she became exposed, then the other health care workers in that hospital who also took care of the Ebola patient would also be considered exposed and, therefore, high risk. High-risk individuals will require direct active monitoring and will be subject to restrictions on their travel and public activity.

CDC Guidance on Evaluation and Management of Potential Cases of Ebola in the ED:

The CDC Oct. 25 released guidance (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/ed-management-patients-possible-ebola.html>) to help hospital EDs evaluate and manage patients who present with symptoms that could indicate Ebola. The guidance recommends immediately determining whether the patient has lived in or traveled to a

country with widespread Ebola transmission or had contact with an individual with Ebola in the previous 21 days; notifying the hospital's infection control staff and the local health department of such patients; and isolating patients with both exposure and signs or symptoms of Ebola.

Patients transported by emergency medical services should be received in a designated area and transported to the isolation area with minimal staff and public contact, the guidance states. Among other actions, all health care workers having contact with the patient should don appropriate personal protective equipment; patient evaluations should be conducted with dedicated equipment; and decisions to test for Ebola should be made in consultation with the local health department, CDC said.

Online Course on Ebola Now Available:

The University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine have released a free online Ebola education course to help educate clinicians on the disease.

“The Nebraska Ebola Method for Clinicians” includes videos and guidelines used at Nebraska Medical Center to care for Ebola patients and will be updated frequently. It is available via the iTunes U app (<https://itunesu.itunes.apple.com/enroll/FDL-BXP-WTF>) for iPad and iPhone and through Moodle (<http://phtc.unmc.edu/moodle>) for viewing on a desktop, laptop or other mobile device.

Nebraska Medical Center hopes to offer continuing education credit soon. Information will be available at www.unmc.edu/cce.

A second online course under development for the public will provide explanations about Ebola that are easy to understand and helpful to share with patients, families and community members.

Further Questions:

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