

**To:** OSU Wexner Medical Center Attending Physicians, House-staff, Physician Extenders and Medical Students

**From:** Andrew Thomas, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer, OSUWMC  
Julie E. Mangino, MD, Medical Director of Clinical Epidemiology

**RE:** Ebola Preparedness

**Date:** August 5, 2014

As you may be aware there is an expanding outbreak in West Africa associated with Ebola Viral Disease (EVD). The countries with recent cases now includes: Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. As you have also probably heard, two patients with EVD were flown to Atlanta in the past few days for care at Emory University Hospital in conjunction with the CDC. We have been working since the middle of last week to prepare in case there are any reports of other patients in the US who have or may have the disease. **As of this morning, we have learned that a local patient who had traveled to the region has been tested for Ebola and the patient is negative.**

It is very important that clinicians understand the mode of transmission for this deadly infection, namely, contact with blood and body fluids or contact with contaminated medical instruments. When cases of EVD appear, there is an increased risk of transmission in health care settings. **While the likelihood of cases within the United States seems very low, we are sharing the attached fact sheet for you to be aware of the signs and symptoms of EVD, which starts similarly to influenza. Travel to these countries or contact with anyone who is infected within the last 21 days is currently the major risk factor.**

If you suspect the diagnosis of EVD in any of your patients, please immediately:

- 1) Place a mask on the patient and isolate them in any private room (negative airflow is not required)
- 2) All healthcare professionals coming in contact with the patient should use standard blood and body fluid precautions including cleaning their hands, put on a gown, droplet mask or N-95 mask (if available) with face shield (or goggles) and gloves.
- 3) Alert the critical event officer on call at pager 9876 (Drs. Andrew Thomas, Susan Moffatt-Bruce Naeem Ali or Mark Mosely) who will work with Epidemiology to help assess any potential case.

Containment is the key to prevention of cross transmission to any of our staff or potentially to any other patients. Infection control measures are imperative to implement as soon as the diagnosis is suspected, along with complete sterilization of equipment, routine use of disinfectant (i.e., bleach or other ammonia based cleaning agent), and use of disposables as feasible.

We will immediately report any suspect cases to the Ohio Department of Health for additional guidance regarding diagnostics. Our labs is already working with the CDC and Columbus Public Health to facilitate testing. Isolation of patients with suspected EVD from unprotected persons is the primary mode to prevent transmission.

We will be sending additional updates on screening practices and additional steps that should be taken for patients at risk for this condition later in the day today.

Thanks for your attention to this critical issue.