



Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit
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Ebola Health Alert

In light of the recent Ebola case in Dallas, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (A/TCHHSD) would like to provide some guidance to the Austin metro healthcare community. While the CDC states that the risk of Ebola in the United States is very low, it is important to have the essential information to ensure proper precautions are taken if a suspect case were to seek medical attention in an Austin metro healthcare facility.

Healthcare providers should be alert for symptoms and travel history that might indicate ebola and should evaluate these patients' risk of exposure. Patients who meet the criteria below are considered Person Under Investigation (PUI):

1. Clinical criteria: fever greater than 38.6 degrees Celsius or 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit, and additional symptoms such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage; AND
2. Epidemiologic risk factors within the past 21 days before the onset of symptoms, such as contact with blood or other body fluids or human remains of a patient known to have or suspected to have ebola; residence in—or travel to—an area where ebola transmission is active (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and some parts of Nigeria); or direct handling of bats or non-human primates from disease-endemic areas.

Contact the A/TCHHSD immediately of a suspect cases identified in your facility. *Be prepared to provide clinical information about the suspect case.*

A/TCHHSD Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit: 512-972-5555
(available 24 hours a day)

Testing for Ebola virus is not available through normal channels and must be approved and coordinated by A/TCHHSD.

Any person collecting specimens from a patient with suspected Ebola virus should wear gloves, water resistant gowns, full face shield or goggles, and masks to cover all of nose and mouth. Specimens should be a minimum volume of 4ml whole blood in a *plastic* collection tube. Specimen collection and shipping details should be coordinated through your local health department.

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