

A photograph showing two hands cupping a small globe of the Earth. The background is a gradient of red and green.

# ALERT

## Healthcare Organization Ebola Preparedness

The following information and links to resources are among the abundance of guidance and tools developed by the American Hospital Association (AHA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which can be found on their respective websites. This information is being provided as part of ongoing efforts to ensure that Allied World policyholders have access to up-to-date information regarding this serious health issue. We strongly encourage healthcare providers to remain current on the guidance as well as to test and assess organizational preparedness on an ongoing basis.

*“The AHA is urging hospitals to use the resources at their disposal to continue to train their nurses and staff and perform drills on the entire course of care from diagnosis to final waste disposal, using the same equipment on which they will rely in order to safeguard their staff, patients and communities.*

*We know every hospital is going to do what is best for their patients, staff and communities. At a minimum, every hospital should be able to detect, isolate, and manage the initial care of a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola while protecting both patients and staff, and to then transfer the patient as necessary.” -AHA President Rich Umbdenstock 10/22/14*

## CDC Healthcare Facility Preparedness Checklist for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

All U.S. healthcare facilities need to be prepared for managing patients with infectious diseases such as Ebola virus disease (EVD). Facilities should review infection control policies and procedures, and incorporate plans for administrative, environmental, and communication measures. Facilities should also define the individual work practices that will be required to detect the introduction of a patient with EVD or other emerging infectious disease, prevent spread, and manage the impact on patients, the facility, and staff.

The following checklist highlights some key areas for healthcare facilities to review in preparation for a person with EVD arriving for medical care. The checklist format is not intended to set forth mandatory requirements or establish national standards. In this checklist, “healthcare personnel (HCP)” refers to all persons, paid and unpaid, working in healthcare settings who have the potential for exposure to patients and/or to infectious materials, including body substances, contaminated medical supplies and equipment, contaminated environmental surfaces, or contaminated air. HCP include, but are not limited to, physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, laboratory personnel, autopsy personnel, students and trainees, contractual personnel, and persons not directly involved in patient care (e.g., housekeeping, laundry, volunteers).

- Monitor the situation at CDC's EVD website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>
- Assess and ensure availability of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and other infection control supplies (e.g., hand hygiene supplies) to all healthcare personnel (HCP)
- Review facility infection control policies for consistency with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Known or Suspected EVD in U.S. Hospitals (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>).
- Review environmental cleaning procedures and provide education/refresher training for cleaning staff (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>)
- Begin education and refresher training for HCP on EVD signs and symptoms, diagnosis, how to obtain specimens for testing, appropriate PPE use (including putting on and taking off PPE), triage procedures (including patient placement), HCP sick leave policies, how and to whom EVD cases should be reported, and procedures to take following unprotected exposures (i.e., not wearing recommended PPE) to suspected EVD patients at the facility
- Review triage procedures and ensure relevant questions (e.g., exposure to case, travel within 21 days from affected countries) are asked during the triage process for patients arriving with compatible illnesses (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html>)
- Ensure laboratories review procedures for appropriate specimen collection, transport, and testing of specimens from patients who are suspected to be infected with Ebola virus

**Link to a Detailed Hospital Checklist for Ebola Preparedness:**

<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/tools-resources/advisory/2014/141001-readiness-adv.pdf>

**Link to the CDC's Updated PPE Guidance:**

<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/tools-resources/advisory/2014/141021-ebola-adv.pdf>

**Link to the AHA website where additional up-to-date resources and guidance may be found:**

<http://www.aha.org/advocacy-issues/emergreadiness/ebola/index.shtml>

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