

Hospital Preparedness Checklist for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

The NSW Health Viral Haemorrhagic Fever Contingency Plan (NSW VHF Plan) recommends that all patients categorised as Highly possible for EVD or Confirmed EVD infection should be managed in a designated VHF hospital (Westmead Hospital or Children's Hospital Westmead).

Nevertheless, all NSW hospitals need to be prepared for managing patients who present with an EVD infection. Facilities should review infection control policies, procedures and training, and ensure that appropriate protocols are in place and that these are tested.

Check the NSW Health Infectious Diseases website (www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/) regularly for updated guidance and links to the NSW VHF Plan. NSW Health will also advise LHD Chief Executives when significant changes are made.

The following checklist highlights some key areas for hospitals to review in preparation for a person with EVD arriving for medical care. In this checklist healthcare workers (HCW) refers to all staff 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, or contaminated environmental surfaces.

- Assess and ensure availability of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and other infection control supplies (e.g. hand hygiene supplies) to all HCW.
- Review facility infection control policies for consistency with the *NSW VHF Plan*.
- Review environmental cleaning procedures and provide education/refresher training for cleaning staff. Refer to guidance in the *NSW VHF Plan*.
- Review ED triage procedures and ensure relevant questions (e.g. travel within 21 days from affected country) are asked during the triage process for patients arriving with fever or other compatible illnesses. Refer to guidance in the *NSW VHF Plan*.
- Education and refresher training for HCW on EVD risk assessment, signs and symptoms, diagnosis, testing protocols, appropriate PPE use (including putting on and taking off PPE), triage procedures (including patient placement), how and to whom suspect EVD cases should be reported, and procedures to take following unprotected exposures to suspected EVD patients at the facility.
- Ensure laboratories review procedures for appropriate specimen collection, transport, and testing of specimens (including point of care tests) from patients who are suspected to be infected with Ebola virus.
- Designate points of contact within the facility responsible for communicating with the public unit and for providing internal updates for HCW, volunteers, and patients.
- Test arrangements through exercises with staff.

Based on the CDC/ASPR Health Care Facility Preparedness Checklist for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/healthcare-facility-checklist-for-ebola.pdf>.