

Region 5 Ebola Preparedness and Response Guidelines

Purpose:

To ensure the safety of EMS Providers while preparing for, responding to, and transporting patients with a positive Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) screening.

1. Region 5 EMS agencies should review the CDC's *"Detailed EMS Emergency Checklist for Ebola Preparedness"*.
2. Region 5 EMS Providers should receive training for the correct donning and doffing of PPE. The use of a "buddy system" while donning and doffing PPE is strongly encouraged.
3. Guidelines for responding to and transporting of a potential EVD patient:
 - If patient is experiencing Ebola symptoms and has travel history to effected areas (per CDC) in the past 21 days, immediately don PPE and limit the number of EMS Providers in contact with the patient.
 - Contact EMS agency leadership immediately.
 - If additional bystanders are in close contact with the patient, they should remain on scene while a transport or shelter in place plan is arranged.
 - All current PPE recommendations from the CDC should be followed.
 - If the EMS agency is unable to comply with other PPE recommendations, another agency should be contacted.
 - If the patient condition allows, have the patient don a N95 and other applicable PPE as available.
 - Limit interventions to BLS as appropriate.
 - Transport to the appropriate hospital per local protocol.
 - Make early contact with the local health department and the receiving facility.
 - Upon arrival at the receiving facility, do not leave the ambulance.
 - Wait for the hospital staff to come out to the ambulance and assist you with the removal of the patient.
 - EMS Providers and the vehicle will need decontaminated per the hospital and/or the EMS agency decontamination plan.
 - Post exposure plans should be followed.