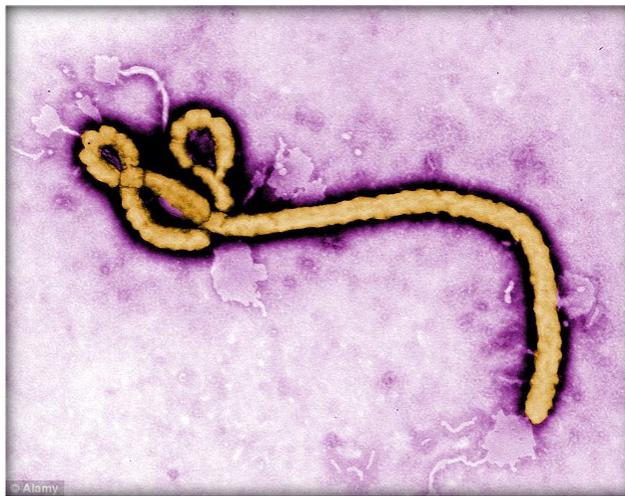


Connecticut Department of Public Health
Public Health Preparedness Program

Hospital and EMS Ebola Virus Disease Tabletop Exercise Situation Manual



Created by Tennessee Department of Health
Adapted for use by the Connecticut Department of Health
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HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

- The title of this document is *Hospital and EMS Ebola Virus Disease Tabletop Exercise Situation Manual*.
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OVERVIEW

Goal

This document is designed to assist in conducting tabletop exercises to improve preparedness for building infrastructure and staff capacity for infectious disease outbreak responses.

Exercise Objective

Improve preparedness for a response to a patient infected with Ebola Virus Disease presenting at Hospital or to an Emergency Medical Service organization.

Critical Planning Considerations

- Timely recognition and response
- Identification of threat
- Personal protective equipment use
- Isolation procedures
- Protection of personnel, patients, and visitors
- Proper reporting to the Connecticut Department of Health
- Information management, both internal and external
- Crisis communications planning
- Resource management both human and equipment
- Surveillance, contact tracing, and movement monitoring
- Maintaining normal operations

Background

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a severe, often-fatal disease in humans and nonhuman primates (monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees). Ebola outbreaks have occurred sporadically since initial recognition in 1976, with the most recent outbreak currently taking place in West Africa. The disease is caused by infection with Ebola virus, named after a river in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) in Africa, where it was first recognized.

Scope

This exercise scenario is based on an infectious disease outbreak of EVD.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Capabilities

- Responder Safety and Health
- Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
- Information Sharing

TABLETOP EXERCISE STRUCTURE

Agenda

- The facilitators will provide a scenario of the discovery of an individual with possible EVD.
- The players will address discussion issues/questions or tasks as provided.
- The tabletop will end, and a hot wash will occur.

Exercise Guidelines

- The scenario is plausible, and event discussions occur as they are presented.
- There is no “hidden agenda”, nor any trick questions.
- In any tabletop exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the allotted time.
- Discussions are predicated on the basis of your knowledge of current plans, procedures, capabilities, and insights derived from your training and experience.
- This exercise is intended to be a learning environment for all participants. It is expected that experienced personnel will share their knowledge and guide discussions.
- Offer suggestions or recommended actions that could improve response and preparedness efforts.

Exercise Rules

- This is an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Be respectful of others as varying viewpoints—even disagreements—are expected.
- Process the information just as you would in a real-life incident. Avoid the temptation to “solve” the entire scenario.
- Questions are intended to drive discussion and do not necessarily denote expected actions. If certain actions would be carried out based on a question, describe the actions and why. If action would not be carried out, explain why.
- Respond based on your knowledge of current plans and capabilities. You may use only existing plans and resources.
- Feel free to make valid assumptions based on the information provided.

Scenario, Part 2

The couple are students at a University and live on campus. The patient states that she recently returned from a trip the day before she started feeling sick. She is from Liberia and had been visiting her family in Tubmanburg. She departed Roberts International Airport on Friday and changed planes in Morocco, New York, and Atlanta before arriving in Hartford at 7:00 PM on Saturday. From there, she took a shuttle home. She reports that she has felt nauseous since the morning of the visit and had an five episodes of diarrhea overnight.

Discussion, 30 minutes

Using the current fever and travel triage guidance document, determine if patient meets criteria for advanced screening and protection.

- What actions would be taken with regard to the patient, and who would carry them out?
- What action would be taken with regard to the husband, health department personnel, and visitors, and who would carry them out?
- What travel history questions would you ask?
- What contact tracing questions would you ask?
- Who needs to be contacted with this information?
- What isolation procedures would be enacted?
- What personal protective equipment (PPE) measures would be considered?
- If PPE use is chosen, what instructions should be required regarding its use?
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ppe-poster.pdf>
- How would you determine the current inventory of PPE?

Notes
