



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH
Commissioner

2014 DOHMH Alert #36: Ebola Virus Disease Update

Please distribute to all clinical and senior administrative staff in your facility

- Three U.S. cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) were recently diagnosed in Dallas, Texas.
- No EVD cases have occurred in New York City (NYC) to date.
- Persons reporting travel to Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea within the 21 days before symptoms onset are of concern for EVD. People who travel to other regions in Africa should not be considered at risk.
- Healthcare facilities should continue to use the EVD Evaluation Algorithm (*see attached algorithm and map*) to identify and isolate persons needing further evaluation.
- Immediately call the Health Department about patients suspected to have EVD.

October 20, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a severe disease with a high case fatality rate. Nevertheless, it is exceedingly rare in the United States. No cases have been diagnosed in NYC, and transmission only occurs by direct contact with body fluids from a person with symptoms of EVD. The public's health depends on providers remaining alert, making decisions based on evidence, and rapidly and appropriately consulting with the Health Department. It is important to recognize that a decision to identify a patient as a suspected Ebola case may lessen the likelihood that the patient is treated for other more likely diseases and may divert resources from others needing urgent care. Providers should remain vigilant for Ebola, but also recognize that the symptoms of Ebola overlap with other, more common medical conditions, such as malaria and respiratory infections. At this time, clinicians should only suspect EVD in persons reporting travel to **Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea within the 21 days before symptoms onset** (*see attached map*) or persons who had direct physical contact with the body fluids of a confirmed EVD case outside of those countries. Providers should immediately report patients with EVD risks (*see attached algorithm*) to the Health Department (866-692-3641).

To date, the Health Department has received 135 calls from health care providers regarding patients for whom EVD was a concern. Only 17 (13%) patients met the reporting criteria (*see attached algorithm*), and none of the 17 reported either a High- or Low-Risk Exposure to EVD. Alternate diagnoses were made for 12 patients: malaria (n=8), URI (n=2), and pregnancy/viral illness (n=2). Four of the remaining 5 patients recovered without a final diagnosis, and one has a pending diagnosis. Of the 118 patients who did not meet reporting criteria, 87 (74%) reported no travel to an affected area *and* no close contact with an EVD patient within the potential incubation period; the remaining 31 patients had a clinical presentation not consistent with EVD.

The Health Department's Ebola web page, <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/diseases/ebola.shtml> and CDC's web page (www.cdc.gov) contain resources to help providers answer questions from patients and the public. Providers should frequently check these websites for updates.

Jay Varma

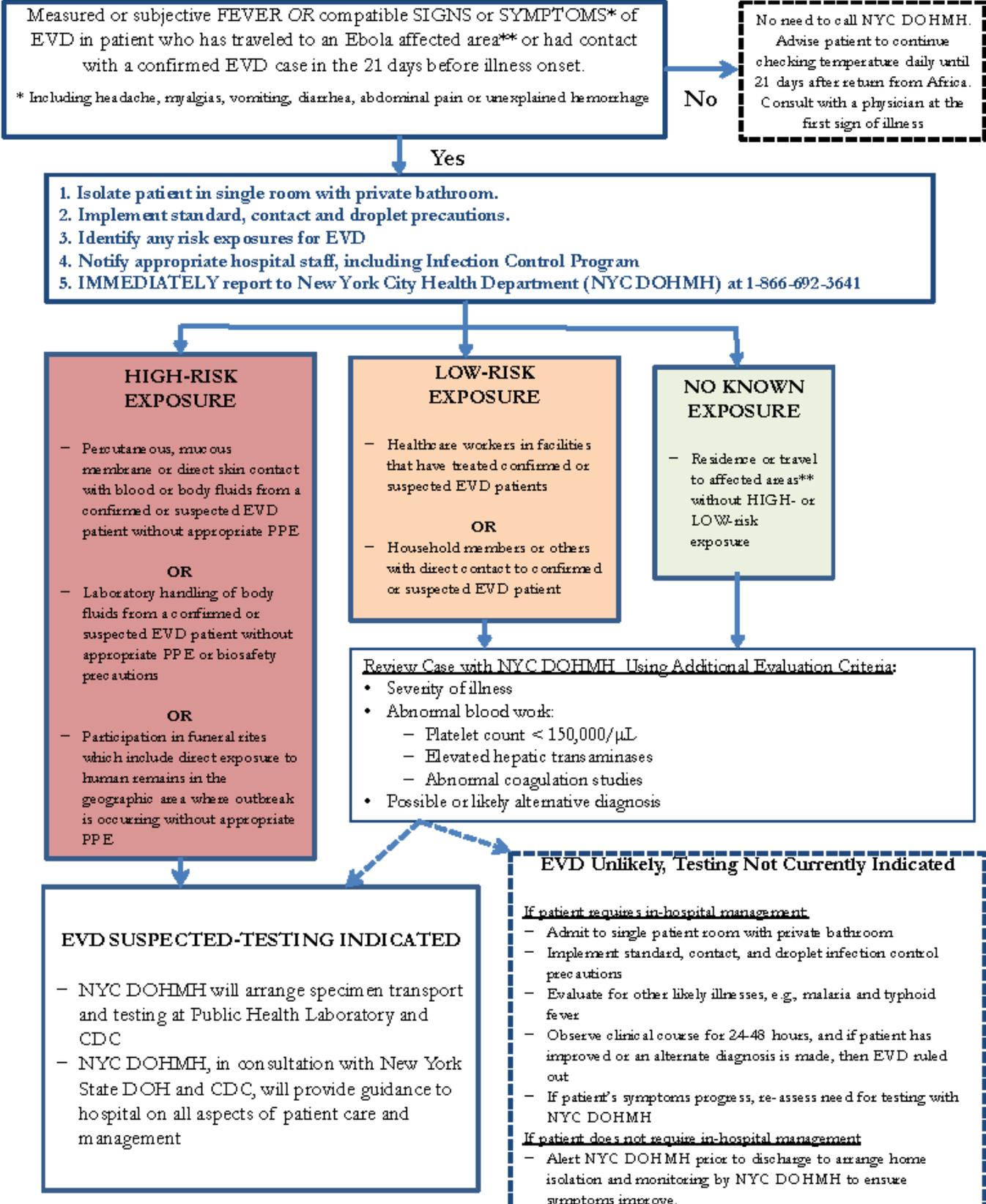
Jay K. Varma, MD

Deputy Commissioner, Division of Disease Control



Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Evaluation Algorithm

(Last updated October 9, 2014)



** CDC Website to check currently affected areas: www.cdc.gov/ebola

Mapping the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

- A large Ebola outbreak is now occurring in the West African countries of **Guinea**, **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**.
- People traveling to and from these countries could be at risk. Ask about recent travel activity and watch closely for symptoms.
- People who traveled to other countries in Africa are not at risk.

Updated Monday,
October 20, 2014



For the latest information on affected regions, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/.

