

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Testing in Wisconsin

Issued: 8/15/14

Background

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa is the largest in history and poses a risk to public health. The virus emerged in West Africa and subsequent cases have been identified in 4 African countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Nigeria). Many of the infected patients experience severe hemorrhagic disease with high levels of mortality.

Transmission

The virus is spread through **direct contact** with the bodily fluids (blood, urine, feces, saliva, sweat and other secretions) of an infected person, or with objects like needles that have been contaminated with the virus. Ebola is **not** spread through the air or by food or water. A person infected with Ebola virus is not contagious until symptoms appear.

Suspect Human Cases

Detailed guidance for Wisconsin clinicians regarding possible Ebola virus infections among travelers from West Africa is available from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (WDPH) at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ViralHemorrhagicFever.htm>.

Report suspect cases immediately to the (WDPH).

- Call 608-267-9003 during business hours (M-F 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM) or
- Call 608-258-0099 after hours and weekends.

**NOTE: Testing for EVD must be approved by the WDPH.
Testing is currently only offered at the CDC.**

It is important to **collect detailed information on patient travel history** including dates and locations and other risk factors including contact with infected persons. This information should be shared with the clinical laboratory.

Specimen Collection and Storage

According to CDC guidance:

- Submit a minimum volume of 4mL whole blood preserved with EDTA, clot activator, sodium polyanethol sulfonate (SPS), or citrate in **plastic** collection tubes can be submitted for EVD testing.
 - **Do not** submit specimens to CDC in glass containers.
 - **Do not** submit specimens preserved in heparin tubes.

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Information

- Label specimen with patient name, patient ID #, type of specimen and date of collection. The requested test only needs to be identified on the requisition and CDC specimen submission forms.
- Store specimens refrigerated at 4°C or frozen.
- Call the Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 for consultation regarding submission of specimens other than blood.

Packaging and Transport

- Submit diagnostic specimens **directly to the CDC** for testing after approval from the WI Division of Public Health.
- Complete the two CDC specimen submission forms below and submit with the specimen:
 1. CDC DASH form: <http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html> (if this form does NOT open with Adobe Acrobat, check with your IT department) **and**
 2. Viral Special Pathogen Branch form: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dhcpp/vspb/pdf/specimen-submission.pdf>.
- The WSLH recommends that EVD specimens be **packaged and shipped as Category A** (according to IATA regulations) using a triple packaging system. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp//packaging-diagram.html>
- Ship specimens for EVD testing to the following address:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
ATTN STAT LAB: VSPB, UNIT #70
1600 Clifton Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30333
Phone 770-488-7100
- On the **outside** of the box, specify how the specimen should be stored: **refrigerated** or **frozen**.

Additional specimen collection, handling and transportation guidance is available from CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html> . Guidance is also provided for specimen handling for routine laboratory testing.

Please call WSLH Customer Service at 800-862-1013 if you have any questions.

Regional Meetings

The WSLH will be reviewing the Ebola virus situation and possible impacts on the clinical laboratory at the 2014 **WCLN Regional Meetings**:

Date	Location
September 17, 2014	Crowne Plaza, Madison, WI
September 23, 2014	Turtleback Golf & Conference Center, Rice Lake, WI
September 24, 2014	Liberty Hall, Kimberly, WI