



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

### PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

<b>To:</b>	All Healthcare Providers
<b>From:</b>	Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH, Health Officer County of Santa Cruz
<b>Date:</b>	April 22, 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Updated Guidance on screening for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

### INFORMATION

Recent update:

*Screen all patients with fever, rash, and/or acute respiratory symptoms for any recent travel history.*

On March 29, 2016, the Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that the Ebola situation in West Africa no longer constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and that affected countries currently have the capacity to respond rapidly to new virus emergencies. Given that the transmission and occurrence of Ebola Virus Disease has been greatly reduced, health care facilities should adjust screening practices for acutely ill patients. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2016/end-of-ebola-pheic/en/>

*Recommendations for Health Care Providers*

#### **What change in screening practices should be instituted?**

Given that the transmission and occurrence of Ebola Virus and occurrence of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa has been greatly reduced, healthcare facilities should adjust screening practices for acutely ill patients and no longer need to screen patients specifically for Ebola Virus Disease. Healthcare facilities should continue to obtain a travel history in triage before completing full patient evaluation so that infection control precautions and patient placement can begin promptly when appropriate. Facilities and providers can stay up-to-date on active travel notices by consulting CDC's [Travelers' Health website](#).

See CDC's screening FAQ's:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/evaluating-patients/faqs-screening-ebola-providers-hc-facilities-health-departments.html>

Healthcare providers in the U.S. should consider EVD in patients who meet the case definition for EVD. The CDC guidance is available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html>.

Promptly report patients who meet the case definition as defined by the CDC for EVD as well as patients with recent international travel and fever, rash, and/or acute respiratory symptoms to the Santa Cruz County Health Department's Communicable Disease Unit (phone: (831) 454-4114; fax: (831) 454-5049; outside normal business hours: (831) 471-1170 and ask for the Health Officer on call.)

- Communicable Disease Unit staff will facilitate testing as needed at a Public Health Laboratory.
- Public Health staff will work with providers to determine what types of specimens and testing are appropriate.
- Reporting to the Health Department serves as an early warning for new and re-emerging infectious diseases occurring in our communities.

For additional information:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola>
- State and local health officials will keep health care providers abreast of any emerging diseases that require specific screening. For situational awareness of travel-related infectious diseases, please contact the Communicable Disease Unit at (831) 454-4114.

For all other non-acute, travel-related diseases that should be considered for patients with a travel history, please refer to the CDC's website: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Santa Cruz County**