



**American Hospital
Association®**

Preparing Hospitals for Ebola

Hospitals have a long history of fighting infectious diseases and are putting that practice to work in fighting today's challenge: Ebola. The AHA has compiled [important guidance](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other authorities onto a special Web page.

Beginning in July, the AHA shared updated news and guidance with all hospitals as it became available. The AHA has coordinated with the CDC, the White House, and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR), raising hospital issues and concerns and communicating the need for additional guidance and answers to key questions. The AHA is also working closely with the state, regional and metropolitan hospital associations, to share emergency preparedness resources.

Patient safety is a responsibility taken on by every individual who chooses to work in a hospital. That means that everyone uses every tool at their disposal to avoid infection. Our responsibility for patient safety means that we all must employ appropriate infection control procedures, not just when an infectious disease such as Ebola is in the headlines, but every single day. It means that hospital leaders remain vigilant in keeping clinical and non-clinical staff updated on policies, procedures and protocols relating to infectious diseases. And it means putting all of this into practice through training and exercises.

The AHA has issued six [advisories](#) to the field with guidelines, recommendations and other resources from the CDC. Hospitals received advisories on August 14, October 1, October 2, October 8 and two on October 13. The AHA has specifically called on hospitals to follow the [CDC's Detailed Hospital Checklist for Ebola Preparedness](#). In addition, we have urged hospitals to review their procedures in the following areas: detect, protect and respond. Lastly, we urged hospitals to continually conduct drills with all first-contact personnel, clinical providers, nursing staff, ancillary staff and any other staff as appropriate, on proper procedures for putting on and taking off personal protective equipment to do so.

We will continue to update hospital leaders on the latest developments through such advisories, as resources become available, and through our daily AHA News Now email newsletter. Please check the AHA website for updated [Ebola preparedness resources](#) and additional materials.

AHA Communications to Hospitals on Ebola

Advisories on:

[Second Ebola Case in U.S. Highlights Urgent Need for Hospitals to Reinforce Planning and Training](#), October 13, 2014

[CDC to Host Ebola Preparedness Calls for Hospitals and Health Systems](#), October 13, 2013

[Special HHS Conference Call October 9 on Preparing your Hospital or Health Care System for Ebola](#), October 8, 2014

[Call Replay: Department of Health and Human Services' call on October 9th, "Preparing Your Healthcare System for Ebola"](#)

[ASPR/CDC Ebola Screening Criteria](#), October 2, 2014

[CDC/ASPR Detailed Hospital Checklist for Ebola Preparedness](#), October 1, 2014

[Health Care Resources for Suspected Cases of Ebola Virus Disease](#), August 14, 2014

Vantage Point/Blogposts:

Patient Safety Begins with You

<http://blog.aha.org/post/patient-safety-begins-with-you>

Remain Vigilant

<http://blog.aha.org/post/remain-vigilant>

News Now Stories:

[CDC issues **Ebola** guidance for environmental infection ...](#)

[WHO declares **Ebola** public health emergency](#)

[First case of **Ebola** diagnosed in US](#)

[Texas hospital shares lessons learned in **Ebola** case](#)

[CDC advises providers to consider **Ebola** in certain travelers](#)

[HHS issues detailed **Ebola** preparedness checklist for ...](#)

[President announces new resources to fight **Ebola** in West ...](#)

[First **Ebola** patient diagnosed in US dies](#)

[States issue tabletop exercises for **Ebola** preparedness ...](#)

[CDC issues **Ebola** guidance for the hospital setting](#)

[Ebola patients discharged from Atlanta hospital](#)

[HHS announces Sept. 29 webinar on hospital **Ebola** ...](#)

[CDC issues guidelines for evaluating/testing US patients for ...](#)

[CDC to offer **Ebola** training for health care workers deploying ...](#)

[HHS issues **Ebola** checklists for health care coalitions, EMS ...](#)

[DOT issues special permit to transport **Ebola**-contaminated ...](#)

[CDC issues guidance for handling suspected **Ebola** ...](#)

[Congress approves CR funding government through Dec. 11](#)

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Talking Points
Ebola

October 14, 2014

- Hospitals are working to ensure they are prepared for all types of infectious diseases, including Ebola. Hospitals are able to detect, protect, and respond to Ebola and properly care for patients and health care workers.
- Every hospital has plans in place to care for patients with infectious diseases and hospitals across the nation are continuously updating their policies. Hospitals are an important part of this nation's readiness infrastructure and take their responsibility very seriously.
- Hospitals meet standards on infection prevention and control established by a variety of government and regulatory bodies, including the Joint Commission that accredits hospitals, the Medicare program and OSHA on worker safety.
- The AHA strongly urges hospitals and health systems to follow the [CDC's Detailed Hospital Checklist for Ebola Preparedness](#) and review their efforts to detect Ebola, protect patients and health care workers and respond quickly and effectively.
- The AHA urges hospitals to continually conduct drills with all first-contact personnel, clinical providers, nursing staff, ancillary staff and any other staff as appropriate, on proper procedures for putting on and taking off personal protective equipment to do so.
- It is important to remember that a person infected with the Ebola virus is not contagious until symptoms appear. According to the CDC, the virus is spread only through direct contact with bodily fluids of a person who has been infected. It is *not* spread through the air.
- According to the CDC, hospital workers should follow standard, droplet and contact precautions, including wearing appropriate personal protective equipment whenever they come into contact with a patient that is suspected to have been infected with the Ebola virus. This includes:
 - Disposable gloves
 - Fluid resistant/impermeable gowns
 - Eye protection (goggles or face shield)
 - Facemask
 - Additional PPE might be required in certain situations, such as double gloving, disposable shoe covers and leg covers

