

TO: Vermont Hospitals and Healthcare Providers
FROM: Patsy Kelso PhD, State Epidemiologist for Infectious Disease

**Interim Health Department Plans for Monitoring Healthcare Workers
with Potential Ebola Virus Exposure**

The Vermont Department of Health has interpreted CDC's November 3, 2014 Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Persons with Potential Ebola Virus Exposure and currently plans the following.

1. Healthcare workers and EMS providers who provide care for a patient with Ebola in the United States while using appropriate PPE (and do not report a breach) are considered to be at **low (but not zero) risk** for exposure. These individuals will be asked to participate in Direct Active Monitoring (see definition below) for 21 days since their last potential exposure. The Health Department does not plan to recommend any restrictions on travel, work, public conveyances, or congregate gatherings as long as these individuals remain asymptomatic during the 21 day incubation period.
2. Healthcare workers who return from providing care for Ebola patients in West Africa while using appropriate PPE (and do not report a breach) are considered to be at **some risk** for exposure. These individuals will be asked to participate in Direct Active Monitoring (see definition below) for 21 days since their last potential exposure. These healthcare workers should not participate in direct patient care for at least 11 days after their last potential exposure. The Health Department does not plan to routinely recommend restrictions on travel, public conveyances, or congregate gatherings. However, some restrictions such as exclusion from long-distance commercial conveyances may be recommended on a case by case basis.
3. Healthcare workers who report a breach in PPE while caring for a patient with Ebola, or who care for an Ebola patient without using appropriate PPE, are considered to be at **high risk** for exposure. These individuals will be asked to participate in Direct Active Monitoring (see definition below) for 21 days since their last potential exposure. The Health Department may recommend exclusion from public conveyances, congregate gatherings, and workplaces during the 21 day incubation period.

Definition of Direct Active Monitoring

In Direct Active Monitoring, the Health Department and/or a healthcare facility's occupational health program directly observes the individual at least once daily to review symptom status and monitor temperature. A second follow-up per day may be conducted by telephone in lieu of a second direct observation.

For additional information see: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html#definitions>

HAN Message Type Definitions

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.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base.
If you have a different or additional e-mail address or fax number that you would like us to use please contact your
Health Alert Network (HAN) Coordinator at: vthan@state.vt.us or Lee.Dorf@state.vt.us.
