



**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF POLICE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM
TRAINING BULLETIN 006**



**EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OFFICER GUIDELINES
OCTOBER 13, 2014**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this training bulletin is to inform and provide guidance to University of Texas System Police (UTSP) personnel with regard to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). This information is provided on behalf of the Office of Director of Police (ODOP) and in direct consultation with the Medical Director, UT System Police.

This training bulletin shall be read in conjunction with ODOP/UTSP Policy C-7, December 15, 2009, "Handling, Care and Treatment of Persons Infected with HIV/AIDS or Other Communicable Disease While In the Custody of the University of Texas System Police;" please note that the cited policy, C-7, is under review and will be replaced by ODOP/UTSP Policy 846, "UTSP Encounters with Communicable Diseases," within 30 days of the issuance of this bulletin.

II. BACKGROUND

- A. A patient with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), also known as Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever, was recently evaluated & transported to Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital (Dallas, Texas) by Dallas Fire-Rescue paramedics. The patient died during the course of his subsequent treatment; a second patient with EVD is now hospitalized in Dallas and indications are that this patient was a medical professional providing care to the first victim.
- B. No UTSP personnel were exposed in the course of these encounters nor have any UTSP personnel been exposed to date through other circumstances.

III. EVD TRANSMISSION

- A. Ebola virus can be transmitted only via direct contact with the bodily fluids (e.g. blood, saliva, vomit, feces, urine or semen) of a symptomatic, infected person.
- B. Ebola virus cannot be transmitted by casual contact, such as being in the same room with an infected individual.
- C. Persons infected with Ebola virus are only contagious when they are symptomatic. In other words, patients infected with Ebola virus are not contagious during the asymptomatic incubation period immediately following infection (which ranges from 2 to 21 days, with an average 8 to 10 days).

IV. PATIENT SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF EVD THAT SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY THAT A PATIENT MAY BE POTENTIALLY CONTAGIOUS

- A. Fever
- B. Headache
- C. Malaise (feeling of discomfort, illness, or uneasiness)
- D. Body aches
- E. Fatigue
- F. Nausea
- G. Vomiting
- H. Diarrhea
- I. Bleeding of unknown origin

V. OFFICER GUIDELINES

- A. Routine public contact poses no risk to police officers
- B. Any officer's potential exposure to EVD, or someone infected with EVD, shall be reported to a UTSP supervisor immediately; the exposed officer should be medically evaluated/treated immediately.
- C. Supervisors who have been so notified shall immediately notify the institution Chief of Police and the Chief of Police shall, in turn, immediately notify the Office of Director of Police; ODOP will then immediately contact the Medical Director or Deputy Medical Director, UT System Police, for further guidance and direction.
- D. Prisoners with suspected EVD shall be evaluated by EMS personnel and transported, as necessary, to a medical facility via ambulance, and not via UTSP vehicle.

VI. EXCERPTS FROM APPLICABLE STATE STATUTES—

MANDATORY TESTING OF PERSONS SUSPECTED OF EXPOSING CERTAIN OTHER PERSONS TO REPORTABLE DISEASES, INCLUDING HIV INFECTION (TX HSC § 81.050)

- (a) The board by rule shall prescribe the criteria that constitute exposure to reportable diseases, including HIV infection. The criteria must be based on activities that the United States Public Health Service determines pose a risk of infection.

(b) A person whose occupation or whose volunteer service is included in one or more of the following categories may request the department or a health authority to order testing of another person who may have exposed the person to a reportable disease, including HIV infection:

- (1) a law enforcement officer;
- (2) a fire fighter;
- (3) an emergency medical service employee or paramedic;
- (4) a correctional officer; or
- (5) an employee, contractor, or volunteer, other than a correctional officer, who performs a service in a correctional facility as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, or a secure correctional facility or secure detention facility as defined by Section 51.02, Family Code.

(c) A request under this section may be made only if the person:

- (1) has experienced the exposure in the course of the person's employment or volunteer service;
- (2) believes that the exposure places the person at risk of a reportable disease, including HIV infection; and
- (3) presents to the department or health authority a sworn affidavit that delineates the reasons for the request.

(d) The department or the department's designee who meets the minimum training requirements prescribed by board rule shall review the person's request and inform the person whether the request meets the criteria establishing risk of infection with a reportable disease, including HIV infection.

(e) The department or the department's designee shall give the person who is subject to the order prompt and confidential written notice of the order. The order must:

- (1) state the grounds and provisions of the order, including the factual basis for its issuance;
- (2) refer the person to appropriate health care facilities where the person can be tested for reportable diseases, including HIV infection; and
- (3) inform the person who is subject to the order of that person's right to refuse to be tested and the authority of the department or health authority to ask for a court order requiring the test.

(f) If the person who is subject to the order refuses to comply, the prosecuting attorney who represents the state in district court, on request of the department or the department's designee, shall petition the district court for a hearing on the order. The person who is subject to the order has the right to an attorney at the hearing, and the court shall appoint an attorney for a person who cannot afford legal representation. The person may not waive the right to an attorney unless the person has consulted with an attorney.

(g) In reviewing the order, the court shall determine whether exposure occurred and whether that exposure presents a possible risk of infection as defined by board rule. The attorney for the state and the attorney for the person subject to the order may introduce evidence at the hearing in support of or opposition to the testing of the person. On conclusion of the hearing, the court shall either issue an appropriate order requiring counseling and testing of the person for reportable diseases, including HIV infection, or refuse to issue the order if the court has determined that the counseling and testing of the person is unnecessary. The court may assess court costs against the person who requested the test if the court finds that there was not reasonable cause for the request.

(h) The department or the department's designee shall inform the person who requested the order of the results of the test. If the person subject to the order is found to have a reportable disease, the department or the department's designee shall inform that person and the person who requested the order of the need for medical follow-up and counseling services. The department or the department's designee shall develop protocols for coding test specimens to ensure that any identifying information concerning the person tested will be destroyed as soon as the testing is complete.

(i) HIV counseling and testing conducted under this section must conform to the model protocol on HIV counseling and testing prescribed by the department.

(j) For the purpose of qualifying for workers' compensation or any other similar benefits for compensation, an employee who claims a possible work-related exposure to a reportable disease, including HIV infection, must provide the employer with a sworn affidavit of the date and circumstances of the exposure and document that, not later than the 10th day after the date of the exposure, the employee had a test result that indicated an absence of the reportable disease, including HIV infection.

(k) A person listed in Subsection (b) who may have been exposed to a reportable disease, including HIV infection, may not be required to be tested.

(l) In this section "HIV" and "test result" have the meanings assigned by Section 81.101. Added by Acts 1991, 72nd Leg., ch. 14, Sec. 17, eff. Sept. 1, 1991. Amended by: Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. 320, Sec. 1, eff. September 1, 2005.

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/79R/billtext/html/SB00665F.HTM>



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