



**TO:** Riverside County EMS System

**FROM:** Daved van Stralen, Medical Director

**SUBJECT:** Suspected Ebola Virus Disease – **Update #02**

**DATE:** January 15, 2015

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As you are aware, the 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest Ebola outbreak in history and a travel associated case of Ebola has been diagnosed in the United States. At my direction, the Riverside County EMS Agency has instituted an additional policy:

3307 – Emerging Viruses (<http://remsa.us/policy/3307.pdf>)

This policy specifies the procedures to be followed when emerging viruses, such as Ebola, are suspected during emergency call taking and response or confirmed prior to interfacility transport. Please review and follow this new policy. It is effective immediately.

Ebola should be considered in anyone who:

- Has a fever and;
- Has traveled to, has lived in, or has had contact with someone who has traveled to West Africa (Guinea, Sierra Leone or Liberia) – *Countries with active Ebola transmission are subject to change.*

Or:

- Has a fever and;
- Has had contact with someone who has had confirmed or suspected Ebola

Initial signs and symptoms of Ebola include sudden fever, chills, and muscle aches, with diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain occurring after about 5 days. Other symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath, headache, or confusion, may also develop. Symptoms may become increasingly severe and may include jaundice (yellow skin), severe weight loss, mental confusion, unexplained bleeding inside and outside the body, shock, and multi-organ failure.

Base Hospital contact shall be made by EMS personnel for consultation and destination when Ebola is suspected. Patients with suspected Ebola originating from the 911 system in Riverside County shall be transported to a Riverside County Prehospital Receiving Hospital. The EMS Duty Officer must be immediately notified at (951)712-3342 if a suspected Ebola patient is encountered.

As new information becomes available, Policy 3307 and EMS Advisories will be updated in accordance with the County of Riverside Department of Public Health and the State of California EMS Authority.



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