



PHARMACY OWNER Guidelines for Ebola

How to prepare your business for Ebola and other infectious diseases

Recommend limiting exposure by keeping distance³

- Ebola is spread through contact with bodily fluids of symptomatic patients. It is not transmitted via air, and is not likely to be transmitted via inanimate objects, such as money.
- Needlestick incidents are very unlikely to result in an exposure because vaccines given in pharmacies are not recommended for ill patients.
- Short interactions, including shaking hands, are considered low risk of exposure.
- Close contact is defined as prolonged exposure within 3 feet of a symptomatic patient.

Recommend routine disinfection of surfaces¹

- This provides reassurance as well as preventing much more likely transmissions of disease such as Norovirus
- 10% bleach or disinfectants labeled as effective against Norovirus² are also effective against Ebola
- Follow product labeling for safe storage, use and handling



Review protocol with employees for safe cleanup of bodily fluids (e.g., vomit, feces)



- Use 10% bleach or disinfectant that is labeled as effective against unenveloped viruses such as Norovirus².
- If cleanup of bodily fluids is required, ensure that safe procedures are used¹.
 1. Block off the area until cleanup and disinfection is complete. No visitors or unprotected staff members should be able to access the area.
 2. Use appropriate personal protective equipment (gloves, gown, eye protection, face shield).
 3. Wipe up the bodily fluid as much as possible with paper towel or other absorbent material.
 4. Gently pour disinfectant (or 10% bleach solution) onto all contaminated areas.
 5. Let disinfectant remain on contaminated area for 20 minutes and then wipe up remaining bleach solution.
 6. Remove gloves and place in a biohazard bag with all other soiled cleaning materials.
 7. Double bag and secure biohazard bags in a puncture-resistant container. This material is considered hazardous material and must be transported and discarded properly⁵.
 8. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

Ensure that supplies for personal protective equipment and disinfection are on hand

Even though the risk of exposure to Ebola in a community pharmacy is low, provide a kit with supplies to reassure employees that their safety is paramount. Provide training on proper donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE)⁶.

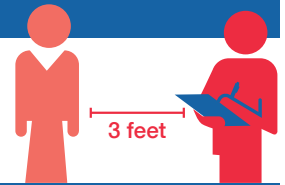
- Waterproof gloves
- Gown or Tyvek suit (fluid resistant/impermeable); consider other protective gear such as hair, leg, and shoe covers
- Eye protection (goggles or face shield)
- Face mask (e.g., N95)
- Disinfectant (bleach or labeled disinfectant)²
- Biohazard bags
- Puncture-resistant container
- Absorbent material (such as paper towels, kitty litter, or absorbent bed pads)





Identify location to isolate patient in while waiting for transport to hospital

- While it's very unlikely that a symptomatic patient with Ebola would present to a pharmacy, ensure patient is kept at least 3 feet away from customers and staff.
- N95 masks are not recommended for use on patients as Ebola is not airborne.



Review human resources procedures that may be impacted⁹

- Sick leave and disability policies and coverage for potential isolation/quarantine
- Policies regarding employees unable to come to work due to school closures
- Policies regarding employees afraid to come to work due to fear of exposure



Establish a point person for employees to contact if a suspected exposure has occurred

- Name & phone number to contact: _____



Establish a relationship with the Local Health Department⁷



- Health Department Phone Number: _____
Directory of Local Health Departments is available at www.naccho.org/about/lhd/
- The Health Department can enroll you & your pharmacists in the Health Alert Network to provide additional information and warnings as they pertain to your community.
- Should a contact with a potential Ebola patient occur, the Health Department will provide guidance, evaluate the situation, and decide on further monitoring or testing⁸.
- The Health Department may be able to help coordinate removal of biohazard waste, if required.



Gather credible information sources and reassure staff and patients on the low risk of spread in the US

- WHO Global Alert and Response: Ebola www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en
- CDC Ebola Virus Disease www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola
- National Libraries of Medicine Disaster Information Management Research Center sis.nlm.nih.gov/dimrc/ebola_2014.html



FOOTNOTES

1. CDC. Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus.
2. EPA listing of disinfectants effective against Norovirus
3. CDC. Review of Human-to-Human Transmission of Ebola Virus
4. CDC. Who Should NOT Get Vaccinated with these Vaccines?
5. Department of Transportation Guidance for Transporting Ebola Contaminated Items, a Category A Infectious Substance
6. Parkland Hospital. PPE Procedures for Suspected Ebola Patients
7. NACCHO. Directory of Local Health Departments
8. CDC. Algorithm for Evaluation of the Returned Traveler
9. CIDRAP. Doing Business During an Influenza Pandemic
10. Infectious Substance



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