

EMS Guidance

Categories and Expectations of EMS During Ebola

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Introduction

This document is intended for Emergency Medical Services providers, health care partners, public health partners, law enforcement, 911, and others. To best serve their communities, particularly regarding decisions on transporting suspect Ebola cases, EMS providers are strongly encouraged to engage, plan, and closely coordinate their activities with local health care and public health partners. The purpose of this document is to:

- describe Department of Health Services' categories of EMS transport for suspect or confirmed Ebola patients;
- assist EMS providers in determining which category is most appropriate for their service;
- clarify the possible roles of EMS services when addressing a potential Ebola case.

This document should be used jointly with other Ebola guidance issued by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#).

For questions related to this guidance, please contact Jennifer Ullsvik at 608.267.7178 or jennifer.ullsvik@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Category One EMS...

- are able to transport patients confirmed to have Ebola to a designated *Category One* healthcare facility.
- are identified ahead of time and known to DHS.
- will work with DHS to coordinate transport of confirmed cases.

Category Two EMS...

- are able to respond and transport a suspected Ebola patient.
- will collaborate with usual partners to prepare to serve in this role.
- will operate using usual referral patterns, or locally agreed protocols.

Category Three EMS... (includes law enforcement and fire)

- are able to screen and identify a suspected Ebola patient.
- should develop agreements with *Category Two* EMS services in order to contact them in the event of a suspect case.

Scenario A: Patient in the Community

A patient in the community calls 911 or the local public health agency.



The patient is screened for risk factors and symptoms by 911 or the local public health agency:



Ask about existence of risk factors within 3 weeks before onset of symptoms.
(see Appendix A).



If patient has risk factors, screen for Ebola symptoms (see Appendix A).



A Category Two EMS Service should be notified.

The service should be notified of suspect Ebola cases and respond to the scene wearing appropriate PPE.

The service should contact the healthcare facility, as part of their regular referral pattern, and work in consultation with the facility and local public health to determine where the patient should be transported.

Scenario B: Patient in Clinic (ambulatory setting) or *Category Three* Hospital

A patient in a clinic or *Category Three* hospital meets the current CDC surveillance definition for a suspect Ebola case.

The clinic should work within regular protocols to contact EMS. A *Category Two* EMS service should be notified.

The service should be notified of a suspect Ebola case and respond to the scene wearing appropriate PPE.

The service should work with the clinic, healthcare facilities, and local public health to determine to what destination the patient should be transported.

Scenario C: Patient in a Healthcare Facility Needs Transportation to a *Category One* Designated Ebola Treatment Facility

A suspect patient has been confirmed to have Ebola.

The WI Department of Health Services will notify a *Category One* EMS service.

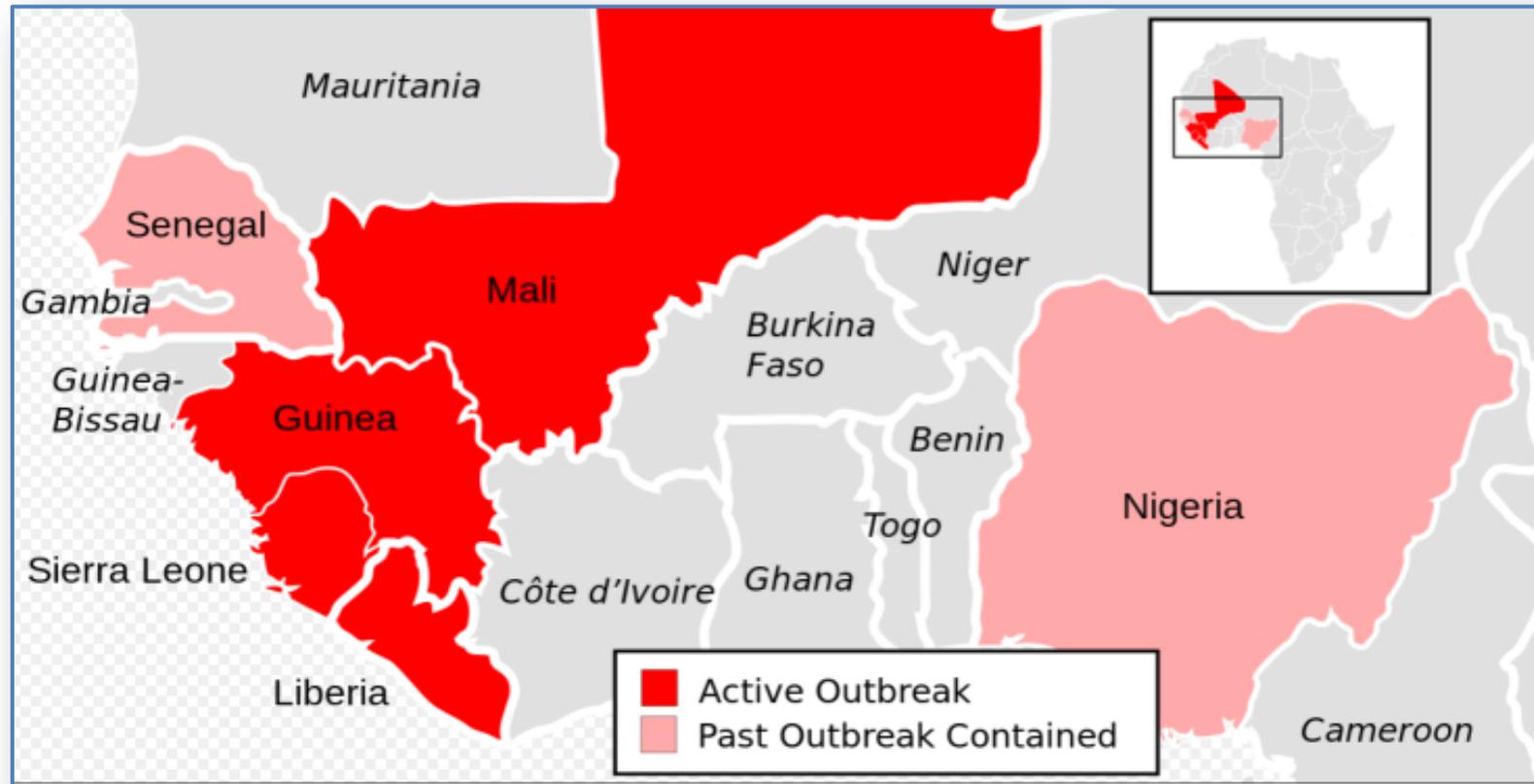
The *Category One* EMS service will arrive at the healthcare facility and transport the confirmed Ebola patient to a Designated Ebola Facility per DHS.



All EMS services should routinely screen all patients for Ebola risk factors and symptoms (see Appendix A). Only *Category One* and *Category Two* services should be notified and respond to patients known or suspected to have Ebola. If a *Category Three* service encounters a patient with both Ebola risk factors and symptoms, they should immediately contact: 1) a *Category Two* EMS service to respond; 2) the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at (608) 267-9003 during business hours or the DHS emergency 24/7 number at (608) 258-0099 after hours; and 3) the local public health agency.

Appendix A: Ebola Screening (Risk Factors and Symptoms)

Has the patient traveled to West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone or Mali) within the 21 days (3 weeks) before the symptoms began?



Simplified Ebola Map found at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2014_ebolavirus_epidemic_in_West_Africa.svg

Does the patient have symptoms consistent with Ebola?

- Fever ($>100.4^{\circ}$)
- Headache, joint and muscle aches
- Weakness/fatigue
- Diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain and lack of appetite
- Unexplained Bleeding