

Ebola or High Consequence Infectious Disease Ambulance Transport

EMS GUIDANCE

Background

During the West Africa 2014-2015 Ebola Outbreak, Minnesota was identified as at risk for a case due to state demographics. In response, Minnesota was awarded grant funding through the federal Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) to improve health care system preparedness for Ebola and other high consequence infectious diseases (HCIDs).

With this funding, MDH in partnership with the EMSRB, created a Workgroup to focus on the *safe transport* (implying both patient safety and responder safety) of these patients to the appropriate medical facility. The Workgroup represented the EMS community, the eight (8) regional health care coalitions, and local and tribal public health.

A set of preparedness criteria were created and all EMS agencies that operate in Minnesota were given the option to self-identify and voluntarily meet and maintain these higher standards. A total of seven (7) licensed ambulance services agreed to transport a suspected or confirmed Ebola/HCID patient to an Ebola Assessment Hospital (Unity Hospital, Children's St. Paul) or Treatment Center (University of Minnesota Medical Center-West Bank, Mayo Clinic St. Marys Hospital).

*If your ambulance service suspects Ebola or a HCID in the field, **or** are contacted by a hospital within your ambulance service's primary service area requesting a hospital to hospital transport of a suspected or confirmed Ebola/HCID patient, **it is recommended for safety purposes to contact the nearest Ebola/HCID Ambulance Service to complete the transport.***

Identified Ebola/HCID Ambulance Services in Minnesota

- Allina Health Emergency Medical Services
- Altru Ambulance Service
- FM Ambulance Service
- Gold Cross Ambulance Service
- HealthEast Ambulance Service
- North Memorial Ambulance Service
- Willmar Ambulance Service

Request Protocol

In the Field:

1. Once a patient is identified or highly suspected to be an Ebola/HCID patient, immediately contact the nearest Ebola/HCID Ambulance Service and request they respond to the incident location to transport the patient.
2. Do not leave the scene or patient, set up a safe zone (6-10 feet from patient) and keep all responders in the safe zone. All responders should don available personal protection equipment (PPE) (gloves, masks, gowns, etc.) as available.
3. Inform the patient of your need to stay within the established safety zone and request the patient stay in their current location. Continue to assess the patient's condition and provide any assistance to the patient that can safely be done (i.e. oxygen that the patient can self-administer with instructions).
4. Communicate patient information and status to the responding Ebola/HCID ready ambulance service until they arrive on scene.

Hospital to Hospital Transports:

1. Inform requesting hospital your service does not have the capabilities to transport suspected or confirmed Ebola/HCID patients, but your ambulance service will immediately contact a service that is prepared and able to transport. Obtain the name and number for the hospital contact person. Remind the hospital to not attempt to contact another service as this will cause delays.
2. Contact the nearest Ebola/HCID Ambulance Service and request them for this specific patient transport. Provide the Ebola/HCID service with hospital location and the contact person and number at the hospital to obtain further information about the patient and transport destination.

If there are any clinical questions please contact the Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division at MDH at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 and ask for the Medical Director 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

24/7 Contact Information for Minnesota Ebola/HCID Ambulance Services

Service	24/7 Contact Number
Allina Health Emergency Medical Services	(651) 222-0555
Altru Ambulance Service: Altru Health System Emergency Dept.	(701) 780-5280
FM Ambulance Service	(701) 364-1700
Gold Cross Ambulance Service	(507) 288-2407 or (800) 237-6822
HealthEast Ambulance Service	(651) 232-1717
North Memorial Ambulance Service	(763) 581-2897
Willmar Ambulance Service: Rice Memorial Hospital	(320) 231-4212

Minnesota Department of Health
 Emergency Preparedness and Response
 (phone) 651-201-5700
Health.HPP@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us