

Clinical Pathology Laboratories

Health Alert for Clinicians – Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Offering our clients state-of-the-art testing is part of CPL's ongoing commitment to excellence.

Ebola Virus

Ebola virus disease (EVD) is one of number of viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHF). It is a severe, often fatal disease in human and nonhuman primates. Ebola virus is spread by direct contact with the blood or body fluids (such as urine, saliva, feces, vomit and semen) of an infected and symptomatic person or by being exposed to objects that have been contaminated with infected blood or body fluids. The incubation period is usually 8–10 days (rarely ranging from 2 to 21 days). Patients can transmit the virus once symptoms appear and through the later stages of disease, as well as postmortem.

If you are considering a diagnosis of EVD, you should first review the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC; website: <http://www.cdc.gov>) criteria and case definition for EVD. If the patient is still considered suspect for EVD, you must contact your local Health Department (see below). Specimens from the patient would then be collected and processed under the direction of the local or state Health Department. The CDC testing cannot be referred from non-governmental laboratories.

CPL does not collect, process or analyze specimens for EVD testing or to rule out EVD infection. Please do not submit specimens to CPL for any other testing such as hematology, chemistry or microbiology from patients suspected to have EVD or for whom EVD is a clinical consideration until those individuals have been cleared by state Health Departments or the CDC. In the interest of safety and adherence to national and state EVD requirements, CPL requests that providers or patients inform us if the patient has recently traveled to endemic areas or has been exposed to affected areas prior to acquiring specimens.

For the most current information and updates, please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Questions can also be directed to your local Health Departments.

Texas

Texas Department of State Health Services: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us>
Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Branch: 512-776-7676 or 800-252-8239

Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals: <http://www.dhh.state.la.us>
Infectious Disease/Epidemiology: 800-256-2748

New Mexico

New Mexico Department of Health: <http://nmhealth.org>
Epidemiology and Response: 505-827-0006

Nevada

Southern Nevada Health District: <http://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org>
Office of Epidemiology: 702-759-1300
Note: Southern Nevada Health District services only residents of Southern Nevada

Oklahoma

Oklahoma State Department of Health: <http://www.ok.gov/health>
Acute Disease: 405-271-4060
Ask to be connected to the Epidemiologist on Call

Thank you for supporting



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