



# HEALTH ADVISORY #91

## GUIDANCE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR EBOLA

**TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities**

**FROM: Letitia Tierney, MD JD, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health**

**DATE: October 27, 2014**

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

**OTHER RECIPIENTS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers during the management of patients with Ebola has been updated as of October 20, 2014. The new guidance is centered on three principles

1. Prior to working with Ebola patients, all healthcare workers involved in the care of Ebola patients must have received repeated training and have demonstrated competency in performing all Ebola-related infection control practices and procedures, and specifically in donning/doffing proper PPE.
2. While working in PPE, healthcare workers caring for Ebola patients should have no skin exposed.
3. The overall safe care of Ebola patients in a facility must be overseen by an onsite manager at all times, and each step of every PPE donning/doffing procedure must be supervised by a trained observer to ensure proper completion of established PPE protocols.

All patients treated at Emory University Hospital, Nebraska Medical Center and the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center have followed the three principles. None of the workers at these facilities have contracted the illness.

For complete guidance on management of Ebola patients in US hospitals, see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/patient-management-us-hospitals.html>

For more information, contact your local health department or DIDE at (800)-423-1271, ext. 1 or (304)-558-5358, ext. 1.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

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