

Ebola or High Consequence Infectious Disease Ambulance Transport

HOSPITAL 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 EMS, the eight (8) regional health care coalitions, and local & 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 statewide 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).

Hospitals who suspect or identify a patient of this infectious nature should follow their normal protocol to request transport.

REQUEST PROTOCOL

1. *Regardless of circumstance*, please follow your **normal protocol** and contact your hospital's usual EMS hospital to hospital transport provider.
2. If your usual EMS hospital to hospital transport provider is not one of the identified Ebola/HCID services *they will contact an appropriate service.*
3. Please **Do Not** attempt to contact an identified Ebola/HCID EMS Service on your own. **THIS WILL CREATE A DELAY IN PATIENT TRANSPORT.**

If there are any clinical questions while awaiting transport, 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.

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

Minnesota Department of Health
Emergency Preparedness and Response
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