

NEW EBOLA RESOURCES FROM THE CDC

Video demonstrating PPE guidance now available

Below are highlights of several new Ebola-related resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including a video overview of the agency's new recommendations for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) with patients with suspected or confirmed Ebola.

Video on Proper Use of PPE:

The CDC and Medscape have produced a 13-minute video overview (<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/833907>) of the agency's new guidelines (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>) on the types of PPE to be used and on the processes for putting on and removing PPE for all health care workers entering the room of a patient hospitalized with Ebola. The video features an introduction from Arjun Srinivasan, M.D., associate director of CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, and a PPE demonstration from Bryan Christensen, epidemiologist, CDC Domestic Infection Control Team for the Ebola Response, and Barbara Smith of the Division of Infection Control and Epidemiology at Mount Sinai St. Luke's Hospital and Mount Sinai Roosevelt Hospital in New York.

Medscape notes that the video demonstrates only one methodology for putting on and taking off PPE safely and health care facilities may need to adapt the protocol to their needs. In addition, "the names of any commercial products that appear in this video are for information purposes only, and the use of these names does not represent an endorsement of those products" by the CDC or Medscape.

Considerations for Discharging Individuals under Investigation for Ebola:

The CDC also has posted a list of considerations for clinicians evaluating whether they should discharge a person under investigation for Ebola who has not had a negative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test (i.e., RT-PCR testing for Ebola virus infection has not yet been performed or RT-PCR test result on a blood specimen collected less than 72 hours after onset of symptoms is negative). CDC notes discharge decisions should be based on clinical and laboratory criteria and on the ability to monitor the individual after discharge, and made by the medical providers caring for the individual, along with the local and state health departments. For more, see the CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/considerations-discharging-pui.html>).

Infographic on Flu versus Ebola:

Early signs and symptoms of the flu and Ebola can be similar. The CDC has created a helpful infographic depicting the differences between the two viruses, including signs and symptoms, and methods of transmission. To download the infographic, go to the CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/is-it-flu-or-ebola.pdf>).

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

In addition, the CDC posted to one webpage (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/ga.html>) links to all of its question and answer documents on Ebola, including questions about the disease itself, transmission and safe management of the disease in hospitals.

Further Questions:

Please contact Roslyne Schulman, director of policy development, at (202) 626-2273 or rschulman@aha.org.