

# Think EBOLA

Early recognition is critical for infection control

**Think Ebola when you approach a patient. Start the steps for basic infection control before assessing the patient for risks.**

- Always use standard precautions
- If there are concerns that the patient could meet the criteria for Ebola, immediately separate the patient from others

## IDENTIFY



Assess your patient for:

- International travel
- OR
- Contact with someone with Ebola within the last 21 days
- AND
- Other symptoms:
    - Fever
    - Severe headache
    - Muscle pain
    - Weakness
    - Fatigue
    - Diarrhea
    - Vomiting
    - Abdominal (stomach) pain
    - Unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising)
  - If the patient has both exposure and symptoms, immediately isolate the patient and inform others (see INFORM)

## ISOLATE



If assessment indicates possible Ebola virus infection, take action.

- Isolate the patient in a private room with a private bathroom or covered, bedside commode and close the door
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): <http://go.usa.gov/szgB>
- Limit the healthcare personnel who enter the room
- Keep a log of everyone who enters and leaves the patient's room
- Consider alternative diagnoses, and evaluate appropriately
- Only perform necessary tests and procedures
- Avoid aerosol-generating procedures
- Follow CDC guidelines for cleaning, disinfecting, and managing waste: <http://go.usa.gov/szYA>

## INFORM

Alert others, including public health authorities.

- Notify your facility's infection control program and other appropriate staff
- Contact your state or local public health authorities
- Consult with state or local public health authorities about testing for Ebola



For more information, visit:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/evaluating-patients/think-ebola.html>

