

Ebola Transport Protocol for SC

The South Carolina Hospital Association, in collaboration with DHEC, Division of Acute Disease and Epidemiology (DADE) developed the following protocols for the recommendation and transport of potential Ebola patients:

- **If a patient arrives at an outlying (referral) hospital**, the patient should be immediately screened for appropriate symptoms and travel history. If the patient has a travel history and has symptoms consistent with Ebola, the outlying hospital should immediately contact the DHEC regional EPI office. DHEC/DADE will communicate with the providers at the outlying hospital and based on the travel history, presenting symptoms and clinical status DHEC/DADE will determine if transport to a regional Ebola treatment center is recommended. The outlying hospital will then coordinate transport with the regional Ebola treatment center and EMS.
- **If a patient arrives at an ambulatory care setting**, the patient should be immediately screened for appropriate symptoms and travel history. If the patient has a travel history and has symptoms consistent with Ebola, the facility staff should immediately contact the DHEC regional EPI office. DHEC/DADE will communicate with the ambulatory care center and based on the travel history, presenting symptoms and clinical status DHEC/DADE will determine if transport to a regional Ebola treatment center is recommended. The ambulatory care center will then coordinate transport with the regional Ebola treatment center and EMS.
- **If a patient calls 911**, emergency dispatchers are strongly encouraged to ask the appropriate screening questions to determine the individual's Ebola risk and dispatch local EMS based on the answers to the screening questions. If the patient has a travel history and symptoms consistent with Ebola, EMS will contact the DHEC regional EPI office. Based on the information communicated by EMS, DHEC/DADE will coordinate transport with EMS and the regional Ebola treatment center if indicated.
- **If a patient is currently being monitored by DHEC** based on travel history and develops symptoms consistent with Ebola, the patient should notify DHEC. Based on the assessment and evaluation of information communicated by the patient, DHEC/DADE will determine if transport is necessary and will coordinate with the regional Ebola treatment center to determine appropriate EMS transport.
- **Active duty military** have protocols for responding to personnel who may have recently traveled to areas with reported cases of Ebola. They will also work with the DHEC regional EPI office to coordinate transfer of a patient with symptoms consistent with Ebola to a regional Ebola treatment center for further evaluation, testing, or treatment.

Regional Ebola treatment centers and all other hospitals should notify DHEC/DADE prior to discharge of any patients evaluated for Ebola. DHEC/DADE will determine if active monitoring needs to be continued.