



# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

### PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY EBOLA VIRUS

<b>To:</b>	<b>All Healthcare Providers</b>
<b>From:</b>	<b>Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH, Health Officer County of Santa Cruz</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>October 31, 2014</b>
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### INFORMATION

Given that the Ebola response is still evolving, it is crucial that all healthcare facilities, including those in primary care and other outpatient facilities be prepared to do the following three actions, the details of which are in this link to the [Action Steps for a Suspect Ebola Case](#):

1. IDENTIFY possible suspects using this link to [the CDC algorithm](#).
2. ISOLATE suspect cases in a closed exam room or, health status permitting, have them go outside or wait in a car for the provider.
3. INFORM the County of Santa Cruz Public Health Division by calling 831-454-4114 during business hours and 831-471-1170 after hours and ask for the Health Officer

In addition, we offer the following suggestions for outpatient providers:

- 1) Post signs by entry and registration areas asking patients/families to immediately inform staff if they are ill and have recently traveled to an Ebola-affected country.
- 2) Routinely inquire about history of travel in the last 21 days to an Ebola-affected country, particularly if the patient has a fever or other symptoms consistent with Ebola
- 3) If a patient reports travel to an Ebola-affected country in the past 21-days AND exhibits Signs/symptoms consistent with Ebola:
  - a. Provide masks to the patient and their family members.
  - b. Isolate the patient and family in the closest private room and close the door.
  - c. Immediately contact your local public health department for guidance at 831-454-4114 during business hours and 831-471-1170 after hours and ask for the Health Officer.
- 4) If a patient reports travel to an Ebola-affected country in the past 21 days BUT has no concerning symptoms, consider delaying non-urgent procedures that could cause an inadvertent fever or other Ebola-like symptoms (such as immunizations or elective surgeries) until 21 days after the patient's arrival in the U.S.

We have also included this link to a [CDC document](#) re: new risk levels and recommended actions to take for four risk levels as well as this link to the [State Health Officer's Health Order](#) for the quarantine of returning travelers from West Africa. Again, [the CDC algorithm](#) is helpful in determining action steps to take for patients with epidemiological risk factors.

PLEASE do not send suspect Ebola patients to the Emergency Room or to a laboratory for confirmatory testing without calling the Public Health Division for guidance.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

