

Preparing U.S. Hospitals for Ebola



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC has developed a strategy to help healthcare facilities and state health officials prepare for patients with possible or confirmed Ebola. This strategy identifies which hospitals will provide different levels of care for patients being assessed and treated for Ebola.



Frontline Healthcare Facility



Quickly identifies and isolates patients with possible Ebola



Notifies facility infection control and state and local public health officials



Has enough Ebola personal protective equipment (PPE) for at least 12–24 hours of care

Prepares for patient transfer, if needed



Ebola Assessment Hospital



Safely receives and isolates a patient with possible Ebola



Provides immediate laboratory evaluation and coordinates Ebola testing



Cares for a patient for up to 5 days (including evaluation and management of alternative diagnoses) until Ebola diagnosis is confirmed or ruled out



Has enough Ebola PPE for up to 5 days of care

Transfers a patient with confirmed Ebola to an Ebola treatment center in consultation with public health officials



Ebola Treatment Center



Safely receives and isolates a patient with confirmed Ebola



Cares for patients with Ebola for duration of illness



Has enough Ebola PPE for at least 7 days of care (will restock as needed)



Has sustainable staffing plan to manage several weeks of care



CDC Ebola Response Teams (CERTs) are ready to deploy to provide assistance as needed

All of the hospitals will be prepared to do the following:

Ensure staff are appropriately trained and have documented competency in safe PPE practices



Have systems in place to safely manage waste disposal, cleaning and disinfection



Adhere to infection control protocols

In some cases, a hospital should be prepared to serve in more than one role. Hospitals may serve simultaneously as an Ebola assessment hospital and an Ebola treatment center. Patients may be transferred between facilities based on the state's plan.