



# University of New Haven

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Policy Title:**

### Ebola Virus Disease Policy

***Policy No.:*** 8217

***Effective Date:*** February 4, 2016

***Last Revision:*** January 2025

**Responsible Office:** Department of Public Safety

**Responsible Official:** Associate VP of Public Safety & Administrative Services

# Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) POLICY

## Purpose:

To educate and provide guidance to the University of New Haven community in the event an individual exhibits Ebola-like symptoms.

## Policy Statement:

The University of New Haven follows the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and is committed to working with health experts as we all deal with the risks associated with the Ebola outbreak. The University will provide information to the campus community regarding any changes and will revise this policy if the situation warrants.

## Definitions:

1. CDC- Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))
2. DPH- Connecticut Department of Public Health ([www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)) ([www.cdc.gov/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/ebola))
3. EVD- Ebola Virus Disease
4. PPE- Personal Protective Equipment

## Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Facts:

[www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/infographic.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/infographic.pdf)

- Ebola is not transmitted through air (like colds or influenza) or by casual contact. Individuals who are not symptomatic are not contagious to roommates, classmates, office staff, etc.
- Ebola is not a food-, water-, or air-borne illness.
- The virus is transmitted through direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected symptomatic person; for the virus to be transmitted, an individual must have direct contact with an individual who is experiencing symptoms.
- Exposure can result from needles, medical equipment, or other objects that have been contaminated with infected secretions.
- Exposure to infected animals (through blood, fluids, or meat) can lead to the transmission of the Ebola virus.
- Incubation period for Ebola is 2-21 days.
- **Patients without Ebola symptoms are not contagious.**

## Screening:

1. Have you been in contact with a person with suspect or confirm Ebola Virus Disease in the past 21 days (for example touching, caring for, etc.)?

2. Have you been to an area with an active Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak or where Ebola Virus Disease is endemic in the past 21 days?

AND

3. Does the patient have a fever above 100.4 degrees?
4. Does the patient have compatible Ebola symptoms?
  - Severe headache
  - Muscle pain
  - Vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Stomach pain
  - Weakness and fatigue
  - Loss of appetite
  - Red eyes, skin rash, hiccups
  - Unexplained bleeding and bruising

**IF THE CRITERIA ARE MET IN THE ABOVE SCREENING, THE POTENTIAL AT-RISK PATIENT SHOULD BE ISOLATED AND PERSONNEL SHOULD WEAR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT OUTLINED IN THE PPE SECTION.**

**Failed Screening:**

Health Services personnel have been trained to handle situations like Ebola and will follow the CDC's recommended protocols for screening, evaluation, isolation and protective procedures.

In addition, Health Services will notify Campus Police at 7070, and activate the EMS system 911 who will notify West Haven Health Department 203-937-3661 and Yale New Haven Emergency Department 203-688-2222.

**ALL FAILED SCREENS SHOULD BE THOROUGHLY DOCUMENTED.**

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for suspected Ebola patients:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/hcp/guidance/index.html>

Health Service and Emergency Response Personnel should wear PPE prior to entry and throughout contact in accordance with CDC guidelines:

- Gloves
- Gown (fluid resistant or impermeable)
- Eye protection (goggles or face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face)
- Facemask

- Additional PPE might be required in certain situations (e.g., large amounts of blood and body fluids present in the environment), including but not limited to NIOSH-certified fit-tested N95 filtering facepiece, double gloving, disposable shoe covers, and leg coverings.

### **PPE removal:**

- PPE should be carefully removed without contaminating one's eyes, mucous membranes, or clothing with potentially infectious materials.
- PPE should be placed into a medical waste container at the hospital or double bagged and held in a secure location.
- Re-useable PPE should be cleaned and disinfected according to the manufacturer's reprocessing instructions and EMS agency policies.
- Hand hygiene should be performed after removal of PPE.

### **Exposure:**

If blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions from a patient with suspected Ebola come into direct contact with University members or EMS provider's skin or mucous membranes, then affected individuals should:

- Immediately stop working.
- Wash the affected skin surfaces with soap and water.
- Mucous membranes should be irrigated with a large amount of water or eyewash solution.
- Contact Health Services for assessment, follow-up monitoring and exposure report.

### **Environmental/Facility Clean-up:**

The University of New Haven will arrange for clean-up and disposal following CDC guidelines. Environmental cleaning, disinfection, and safe handling of potentially contaminated materials is essential to reduce the risk of contact with blood, saliva, feces, and other body fluids that can soil the campus environment.

[\(Clean Disinfect Indoor Spaces.pdf\)](#)

Personnel performing environmental cleaning and disinfection should:

- Wear the recommended PPE (described above) and consider the use of additional barriers (e.g., shoe and leg coverings) if needed.
- Wear face protection (facemask with goggles or face shield) when performing tasks such as liquid waste disposal that can generate splashes.
- Use an EPA-registered hospital grade disinfectant with a label claim for one of the non-enveloped viruses (e.g., norovirus, rotavirus, adenovirus, poliovirus) to disinfect

environmental surfaces. Disinfectant should be available in spray bottles or as commercially prepared wipes for use during transport.

- Spray and wipe clean any surface that becomes potentially contaminated. These surfaces should be immediately sprayed and wiped clean (if using a commercially prepared disinfectant wipe) and the process repeated to limit environmental contamination.

**Safety Precautions on Campus:** The University of New Haven continues to monitor the status of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The campus community should follow the guidance outlined in the University of New Haven's policy on Travel to Ebola Affected Countries and/or Cities. The policy can be found at:

<http://www.newhaven.edu/student-life/police/environmental-health-safety/>

[http://www.newhaven.edu/student-life/CampusLife\\_StudentAffairs/health\\_services/](http://www.newhaven.edu/student-life/CampusLife_StudentAffairs/health_services/)

Upon returning to campus from one of the affected areas individuals will be monitored in accordance with CDC guidelines ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) for 21 Days.

**Resources:**

CDC (Center for Disease Control) [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

State of Connecticut [www.ct.gov/ebola](http://www.ct.gov/ebola)