

# Ebola Virus

Hemorrhagic Fever

# **Ebola Patient**









**Likely Sources:  
Consuming bats and  
monkey brains**



# **Ebola Virus Symptoms**

- **Headaches, high fever, stomach pain.**
- **Nausea and vomiting.**
- **Diarrhea (may be bloody)**
- **Bleeding from the nose, mouth, eyes, ears or rectum.**
- **The manifestations of the Ebola virus are so devastating that the Ebola virus victims will seek help from health professionals.**

# **Ebola Exposure Risk Groups**

- **Individuals traveling from Ebola outbreak areas.**
- **Family and friends who have been in contact with a Ebola patient.**
- **Healthcare workers caring for Ebola patients.**
- **Anyone handling the remains of a deceased Ebola patient.**

**No individual should be in contact with the remains of a deceased Ebola patient who is not wearing proper personal protection equipment.**

## **PPE for personnel providing postmortem care deceased Ebola patient:**

- **Surgical scrub suit, apron, respirator, surgical cap, impervious gown with full length sleeves, facemask, goggles, face shield, shoe covers, leg covers, double surgical gloves.**
- **Procedures for the disposal of contaminated PPE should be in place before putting on PPE.**
- **Special care should be used to avoid contaminating the PPE wearer when removing the PPE.**
- **Thoroughly wash with soap and water after removing the personal protection equipment.**

# Ebola Personal Protection Equipment





# **Handling of human remains that may contain the Ebola Virus**

- **Only personnel trained in handling Ebola-infected human remains and wearing personal protection equipment should touch or move any Ebola-infected remains.**
- **Handling of Ebola-infected human remains should be kept to a minimum.**
- **Autopsies and embalming of deceased Ebola virus victims should not be attempted.**

## **Deceased Ebola patient postmortem care:**

- **Leave any intravenous lines or endotracheal tubes that may be present in place.**
- **Avoid washing or cleaning the body.**
- **The body should be wrapped in a plastic sheet. (try to wrap the body in a way that prevents contamination of the outside of the plastic sheet)**
- **Place the body in a heavy-duty body bag and zip up the bag. Disinfect the body bag and place that body bag into another heavy-duty body bag and zip it up. Then disinfect that body bag.**



# Heavy-duty Body Bag



# Mortuary Care

- **Mortuary care personnel must wear PPE when handling the bagged remains of a deceased Ebola victim.**
- **Do not open the body bags.**
- **Do not attempt to embalm the body.**
- **If the body is going to be cremated, the bagged body should be placed in a container used for cremation and the body should be cremated as soon as possible.**
- **If the body is to be buried, the bagged body should be placed directly into a sealed casket or a Ziegler Transfer Case and the burial should take place as soon as possible..**

# Cremation of Deceased Ebola Victims

- If the Ebola victims body is going to be cremated, the body should be wrapped in a plastic sheet, placed in two heavy-duty body bags and then placed in a proper container for cremation. The cremation of the body should take place as soon as possible.
- Personnel placing the body in the cremation container and carrying the body to the vehicle transporting the body to the crematory should wear PPE.
- Personnel removing the body from the vehicle at the crematory should wear PPE.
- The vehicle transporting the body to the crematory should be thoroughly disinfected following the removal of the body.

# Cremation Container



## **Burial of Deceased Ebola Victims**

- **If the Ebola victims body is going to be buried, the body should be wrapped in a plastic sheet and placed in two heavy-duty body bags then placed in a sealed casket or a Ziegler transfer case.**
- **Zippered body bags should not be opened and embalming of the body should not be considered.**
- **The body should be taken directly to the cemetery for burial.**
- **The body of a deceased Ebola virus victim should not be taken to a funeral home and funerals or memorial services with the body present should not be considered.**

# Sealed Casket



# Ziegler Transfer Case



**Individuals with the highest risk of getting the Ebola virus from a deceased Ebola victim are funeral directors and crematory personnel.**

**Current plan being considered in Kentucky regarding the postmortem care of Ebola virus victims is: to establish Regional Funeral Director Ebola Response Teams**



# **Regional Funeral Director Ebola Response Teams**

- **Volunteer funeral directors will be utilized to form the Regional Funeral Director Ebola Response Teams.**
- **Team members will receive extensive training on the proper postmortem care of deceased Ebola victims by federal and state health officials.**
- **It is hoped that FD Ebola Teams can be established in Eastern, Northern, Central and Western Kentucky.**
- **The teams will be equipped with the required PPE, heavy-duty body bags, Ziegler transfer cases, and trailers to transport the deceased Ebola victims to crematories and cemeteries.**
- **The FD Ebola Teams will provide the postmortem care required for the deceased Ebola victim at the health facility where the death occurred, will place the body in the required container for cremation or burial and will accompany the body to the crematory or cemetery.**

- **Cremation of the deceased Ebola victims is being recommended.**
- **Expediting the process for authorization for cremation of the body of Ebola victims is being considered.**
- **Considerations are being made to have the federal and/or state government pay the expenses for the cremation or burial of deceased Ebola victims.**
- **Following the cremation or burial the FD Team will disinfect the trailer used to transport the body.**



**Funeral Director Ebola Response Team**





# Ebola Body Transport Trailer



# Transporting Ebola Human Remains

- Transporting remains that contain Ebola virus should be minimized to the extent possible.
- Personnel who will be carrying the body and/or placing the body in the vehicle transporting the Ebola victim should wear PPE.
- All transportation of the remains of Ebola victims must be coordinated in advance with local and state health officials and law enforcement authorities.

**Kentucky Coroners should not investigate the deaths of Ebola virus victims and should not assist with the postmortem care of deceased Ebola virus victims.**

**The Kentucky Medical Examiner's Office will not accept any deceased individual who has been diagnosed with the Ebola virus or who is suspected of having the Ebola virus.**