



# EBOLA

## North Carolina Preparedness FAQs

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**1. Has the North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) been preparing for a patient with Ebola to arrive in our state?**

Yes, the NC DPH has been working closely with public health partners and healthcare providers statewide since July to prepare for the possibility of Ebola virus infections in North Carolina.

**2. How are public health departments, healthcare providers and other partners preparing?**

Extensive guidance has been provided by the CDC and the NC DPH to health departments, healthcare providers, hospitals and laboratories on evaluation of patients with recent international travel and on management of suspected cases. These partners are continuing to work together to develop plans to ensure that an Ebola patient can be safely managed in their communities. The most current guidance can be found here <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/diseases/hemorrhagic.html>.

**3. What else is the NC DPH doing?**

We are actively monitoring for cases using a variety of methods, including real time surveillance of hospital emergency department visits and a network of hospital-based Public Health Epidemiologists in the state's largest hospital systems.

**4. Are first responders prepared to assist an Ebola patient?**

Yes, the NC DPH is working with the Office of Emergency Medical Services to assist local EMS agencies with triage and treatment protocols for potential Ebola patients.

**5. What will happen if a hospital or healthcare provider thinks someone has Ebola?**

Local health departments and the NC DPH are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for consultation for healthcare providers with concerns about Ebola or other communicable diseases. If Ebola is suspected by a healthcare provider, the NC DPH will work with the healthcare facility and the local health department to evaluate and safely manage the patient.

**6. Where will testing for Ebola be done?**

The State Laboratory of Public Health (SLPH) has successfully established the capability to rapidly detect Ebola infection. The SLPH can provide technical consultation to clinical laboratories on specimen collection, transport, and safety procedures while evaluating patients with recent international travel.

**7. What will the NC DPH do if we do have a case of Ebola in North Carolina?**

If a case occurred in North Carolina, state and local public health professionals would rapidly identify everyone who was potentially exposed and take immediate measures to prevent further spread. Our public health professionals have extensive training and experience with this type of investigation and response.