

Office of Chief Medical Examiner EVD Preparedness Initiatives

GNYHA Ebola Preparedness Conference

January 23, 2015

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)



- What We Know
- What We Don't Know
- Preparations
- Protocol





EVD Postmortem Considerations

What We Know

- The 2014 Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic is the largest in global history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa.
- In the US there have been 4 cases of EVD resulting in 1 death (not including patients transported for care)

Total Cases: 21,724

Laboratory Confirmed Cases: 13,610

EVD Deaths: 8,641

Case Fatality Rate: 40%



Source: CDC

As of January 21, 2015

Source: WHO: Ebola Response Roadmap
21 January 2015



EVD Postmortem Considerations

What We Know

- Ebola hemorrhagic fever can cause disease in humans and non-humans
- Viral load is highest at time of death causing the body to be most infectious
- Healthcare providers caring for EVD cases and close family and friends have the highest risk of exposure due to contact with blood or body fluids. This is especially true for those involved in the burial process.
- EVD can also spread through contact with objects (clothes, bedding, etc.)



EVD Postmortem Considerations

What We Don't Know

- Length of time EVD survives in postmortem tissue (current estimates are 72 hours to 7 days)
- Willingness of Funeral Industry to handle cases (crematories, cemeteries, etc.)
 - Reported difficulties obtaining crematorium to handle the Dallas case due to concerns about infection control.
- Ability to transport remains interstate or internationally for final disposition.

NYC Preparations



NYC Designated EVD Hospitals

- Bellevue Hospital Center
- NY-Presbyterian Allen Hospital
- Montefiore Medical Center
- Mount Sinai Hospital





NYC Preparations

Health & Safety Considerations

- ***OCME personnel must operate in a 100% Risk Free environment***
- OCME has developed an EVD-specific Health & Safety Plan to include an Infection Control and Monitoring Program
- All operational personnel will exceed CDC guidelines
- Wet decontamination/drying prior to doffing
- PPE doffing will be conducted systematically in a one-to-one assisted process



NYC Preparations

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

OCME personnel are required to comply with all Health and Safety and PPE requirements at all times:

- Paper undergarments
- Tychem F Coverall
- Exam Gloves & Heavy Yellow Gloves
- HazMat Boots
- PAPR with P100 filter
- Suit Tape
- Disposable outer layer: apron, gloves and face-shield





NYC Protocol

Human Remains Packaging

Decedent wrapped according to standard healthcare facility postmortem packing

Sealed in BioSeal Type 5 packaging

Packed in a disaster human remains pouch (HRP)

HRP will be placed in a remains tub in the clean area

Remains tub will be covered to eliminate the potential for cross-contamination and transferred to stretcher for transport.





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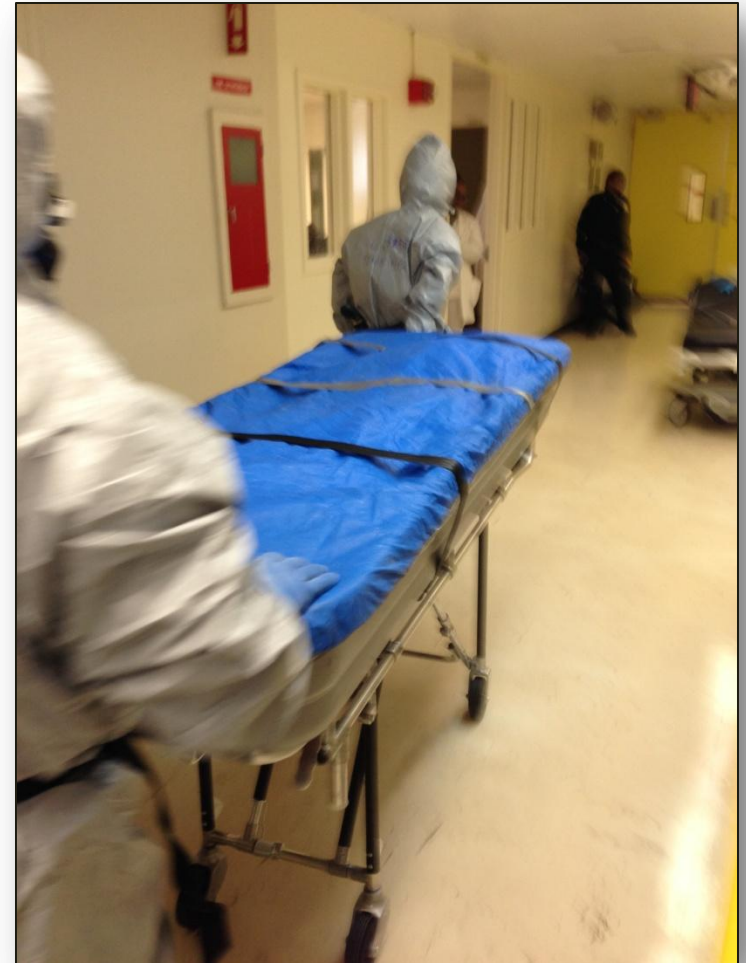
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NYC Protocol



Removal

- Suspected / confirmed EVD cases will be transported to an off-site remains storage facility.
 - No EVD cases will be brought to any OCME fixed facility.
 - No HRP's will be opened.
 - No autopsies will be conducted.
- Remains will be stored in accordance with normal chain-of-custody protocols





NYC Protocol

Decontamination Process

OCME personnel are required to undergo a wet decontamination.

- Glove Soak / Wash
- Boot Soak / Wash
- Full Suit Decontamination
- Drying prior to doffing
- Cut out doffing procedure

Decontamination process will be assisted as needed.





NYC Protocol

Doffing Process



Once decontamination is complete, personnel systematically doff all PPE.

- Conducted in a one-to-one assisted process
- Following checklist
- Assistant will cut the person out of their suit (down the back of the suit)
- Approximately 20 minute interval

All contaminated PPE will be collected for disposal with regulated medical waste.



NYC Protocol

Final Disposition

- OCME will control the final disposition process to prevent additional risk to public health including funeral industry.
- Viewing / Handling of remains will be restricted.
- Final disposition options will be limited to:
 - Direct Cremation
 - Direct Private Burial
 - Direct City Burial

QUESTIONS?

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