

# ***Ebolavirus & Ebola Preparation at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics***

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- Originally identified in 1976
- Several localized outbreaks in Africa in the past
- Newest outbreak identified in March
- Three countries in W. Africa
- First-ever patients treated in US
- First-ever transmission to US health care workers

## ***Bio-Emergency Response Team***

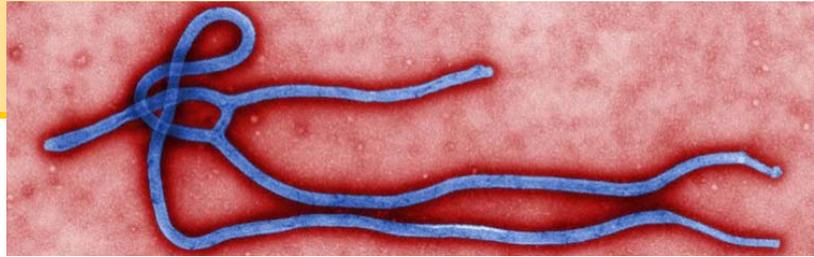
Convened in mid-August:

- Physician leadership
  - Hospital epidemiologists
- Senior administrative leadership
- Director, Emergency Management Services
- Many others

## Goals

- Provide exceptional patient care
- Ensure the safety of our staff, patients and community.

# Ebolavirus



## ● Good News

- Not transmissible until symptoms are present
- Average number of people 1 sick person will infect = 2 vs. 18 for measles & 4 for HIV & SARS
- Enveloped virus: easier to kill with disinfectants
- National infection prevention experts on staff

## ● Bad News

- High mortality rate
- No vaccine
- No approved treatments

- Person-to-person transmission requires close personal contact between an infected person or their body fluids and another person.
  - Is not airborne
- Can be prevented with correct use of Personal Protective Equipment

- Based on:
  - CDC guidance
  - Information from hospitals treating patients with Ebola in the US
  - The type of patient we are likely to see
- Is tiered, based on the patient's condition and the level of care needed
  - Patients with mild symptoms in clinics
  - Patients admitted for ongoing care

- Screening processes
  - Scheduling
  - Check-in/arrival
  - Electronic medical record
- Training and safety
  - Focus on the safety of our health care workers, patients and visitors
  - Limit the number of direct caregivers
  - Training and certification of physicians and front-line staff
  - Repeated simulations

- Patient care protocols
  - Outpatient clinics
  - Emergency department
  - Inpatient unit
- Cleaning and waste management

### *Iowa Department of Public Health*

- UIHC will contact IDPH to determine if patients need to be tested for Ebola virus
- UIHC consulted with IDPH and with State Hygienic Lab regarding sending blood for Ebola testing to the appropriate public health laboratory
- UIHC discussed transport of waste generated during the care of a patient with Ebola infection with staff from IDPH
- UIHC has discussed issues regarding safe transport to/from the UIHC

### *University of Iowa*

- UIHC has collaborated with Student Health since mid-August and has provided screening tools and guidance to Student Health staff
- Student Health staff are screening all students, who come for flu vaccines for travel to/from West Africa and will help develop a plan for students from West Africa regarding travel to their home countries over the holidays
- UIHC has discussed with the UI development of Ebola-specific resources, plans, and communications for faculty, staff, and students
  - UIHC is providing content expertise

- Communication is a critical safety concern
- Communications developed for:
  - Faculty and staff
  - Patients and families
  - Community
  - News media

Again, our goals are:

- Provide exceptional patient care
- Ensure the safety of our staff, patients and community
- UIHC has done extensive preparation & is continuing to prepare its staff & its facilities to identify & care for patients with presumed or confirmed Ebola infection.
- **Information & guidelines are changing VERY RAPIDLY.**
- **Procedures WILL CHANGE** to incorporate the new information & guidelines.

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