PREPARING FOR EBOLA

Now that the Ebola virus has come to the United States, many Americans are concerned about the status of their local hospital should a case occur. Since our area of east Alabama has a sizable international community as well as major universities (both factors that indicate a higher than usual likelihood of international travel), local officials are working together to create a plan that would allow for optimal containment of the virus should it be reported here.

East Alabama Medical Center (EAMC) has formed an Ebola preparedness committee, which consists of emergency medicine and infectious disease physicians, infection prevention staff, members of the Emergency Department, Emergency Medical Services (ambulance service), environmental services, laboratory, administration and other critical departments.

We are committed to keeping our communities informed so that should the Ebola virus be detected in our area, you will know what to do and how we are handling it. Our concern is, as always, for the health and safety of the residents of east Alabama as well as for our staff of health care providers.

To learn what EAMC is doing to prepare for Ebola, click here to read the EAMC Health Update, which appeared in the Monday, October 13, 2014 edition of the Opelika-Auburn News.

Please check this page often for updates and links to other sources of information about Ebola.

Potential Ebola exposure?
Call the EAMC Ebola Hotline.

334-528-EBOL

EAMC has set up an Ebola hotline number so individuals can discuss their symptoms and be assessed for Ebola via telephone, without potentially infecting other people.

When to call the EAMC Ebola hotline:

• If you have travelled from Africa within the last 30 days,
• OR If you have been in contact with someone who has travelled from Africa in the last 30 days,
• AND you have one or more symptoms of the Ebola virus (fever, headache, joint and muscle
aches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain and lack of appetite)
If those criteria apply to you or a loved one, call the EAMC Ebola hotline number - (334) 528-EBOL – and we will triage your condition without putting others at risk.

YOUR RISK OF GETTING EBOLA

People at highest risk of contracting Ebola include those who travel to countries with active
Ebola outbreaks (Africa) and are:

• Healthcare workers
• Family and friends of an Ebola patient who were in direct contact with the person
infected with the virus.

SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY:

IF you have traveled to Africa within the past month, particularly to the countries with active
Ebola outbreaks;

OR if you have had close contact with a person who has been in one of those countries;

AND develop the following symptoms:

• Fever (greater than 101.5°F)
• Severe headache
• Muscle pain
• Weakness
• Diarrhea
• Vomiting
• Abdominal (stomach) pain
• Lack of appetite
• Unusual bleeding

If the above criteria and symptoms apply to you or a loved one, call East Alabama Medical
Center (EAMC) immediately at (334) 749-3411. Inform the operator of your possible exposure
to the Ebola virus, and you will receive instructions on how to access medical care.

For more information:

From the Alabama Department of Public Health

http://www.adph.org/ebola/
Ebola preparedness press conference with Governor Robert Bentley, 10/8/14:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smaKcOdIL5M

Ebola Virus Disease Hospital Toolkit: http://www.adph.org/ebola/Default.asp?id=6785

From the Alabama Hospital Association
http://www.alaha.org/

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/

From the World Health Organization
http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/