Ebola Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in Acute Care Hospitals

DRAFT, December 16, 2014

The interim guidance provided on the next page is intended to help acute care hospitals meet PPE requirements under Cal/OSHA regulations to protect employees from becoming infected with Ebola virus disease.

If insufficient quantities of the required PPE are available to protect employees at risk of exposure to the Ebola virus, hospitals should work with local health officers or the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to solve the problem, either by arranging for immediate help to obtain the required PPE or by arranging for suspected or confirmed Ebola patients to be transported to hospitals that are sufficiently equipped.

For discussion of the tiered approach for acute care hospitals shown in this document, see "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Interim Guidance for U.S. Hospital Preparedness for Patients with Possible or Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease: A Framework for a Tiered Approach," last updated on December 2, 2014.

For further discussion of the Ebola PPE requirements, see "Cal/OSHA Interim Guidance on Ebola Virus in Inpatient Hospital Settings," November 14, 2014.

Please note that this interim guidance is subject to revision as new information becomes available.

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CDC Tiered Approach for Acute Care Hospitals	Cal/OSHA Interim Guidance on PPE in Acute Care Hospitals	Preparedness Based on CDC Tiered Approach
Frontline healthcare facility (to identify patient with relevant exposure history and Ebola-compatible symptoms, isolate patient, and inform health department to ensure transfer of patient to an Ebola assessment hospital as soon as possible)	If a patient is a suspected[1] or confirmed Ebola case and is exhibiting bleeding, vomiting, diarrhea, a clinical condition that warrants invasive or aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, suctioning, active resuscitation), or overall worsening of symptoms: Employer must provide Ebola PPE[2] both to employees caring for or moving the patient and to all employees working in the patient's room.	Maintain Ebola PPE sufficient for 12-24 hours of patient care, to be used if needed. Maintain sufficient quantities of PPE for the care of clinically stable patients. Employees using an N95 or other negative-pressure respirator must be fit tested with the model and size they will use.
Ebola assessment hospital (to evaluate and care for patient for up to 96 hours or until discharged or transferred)	If a patient is a suspected[1] Ebola case but is <u>not</u> exhibiting the symptoms listed above: Employer must provide Ebola PPE[2] both to employees caring for or moving the patient and to all employees working in the patient's room – except that the body covering can be an isolation gown instead of a coverall, and the respirator can be a surgical N95 (or higher) with face shield instead of a battery-powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR).	Maintain Ebola PPE sufficient for 4-5 days of patient care.
Ebola treatment center (to care for and manage patient throughout the disease process)	Inpatient hospital setting: Employer must provide Ebola PPE[2] to employees entering the room of a patient with suspected[1] or confirmed Ebola virus disease in the inpatient hospital setting, to be prepared for the possibility of an unexpected aerosol-generating procedure.	Maintain Ebola PPE sufficient for at least 7 days of patient care.

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[1] Aerosol Transmissible Diseases standard, 8 CCR § 5199, (b) Definitions: "Suspected case. Either of the following: (1) A person whom a health care provider believes, after weighing signs, symptoms, and/or laboratory evidence, to probably have a particular disease or condition listed in Appendix A; (2) A person who is considered a probable case, or an epidemiologically-linked case, or who has supportive laboratory findings under the most recent communicable disease surveillance case definition established by CDC and published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) or its supplements as applied to a particular disease or condition listed in Appendix A."

[2] "Ebola PPE" is PPE designated for the care of a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola virus disease in the inpatient hospital setting, as described in "Cal/OSHA Interim Guidance on Ebola Virus in Inpatient Hospital Settings," November 14, 2014. The PPE must cover all surfaces of the body and prevent blood or other potentially infectious materials from passing through. The body covering must be a coverall. The respirator must be a battery-powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR).