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To

All State Surveillance Officers

Sub: Advisory to keep vigil for Ebola Virus Disease

Sir/Madam

Cases of Ebola virus disease are being reported from West Africa since February 2014 starting from Guinea and subsequently from adjoining areas of Africa. Ebola Virus Diseases is a severe often fatal illness with a fatality rate of upto 90%. The illness affects humans and non-human primates (monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees. There is no risk of transmission during the incubation period (2-21 days) and only low risk of transmission in the early phase of symptomatic patients. Transmission requires direct contact with blood, secretions, organs or other body fluids of infected living or dead persons or animal. Even if a person has history of visit to the affected area the risk of developing the disease is very low. Casual contacts in public places with people that do not appear to be sick do not transmit Ebola.

Healthcare providers should consider the possibility of Ebola virus disease in a person with a positive contact and travel history to affected areas and report to CSU, IDSP, NCDC for further guidelines. Suspected patients should be handled in isolation.

All State surveillance officers are recommended to keep a constant vigil and raise level of awareness and knowledge of surveillance officers and healthcare providers (first or early responders) on basic standard precautions to be followed during the care and treatment of suspected patients. If admitted to their health facility or seen by health provider, include the basic level of infection control—hand hygiene, use of personal protective equipment to avoid direct contact with blood and body fluids, prevention of needle stick and injuries from other sharp instruments, and a set of environmental controls.

Facility to test the samples is available at NIV, Pune. The following samples should be collected:

Type of Sample to be collected	Blood/serum
Storage & transportation	Sample should be transported at 2-8°C within 24 hrs. If delay serum should be stored at -70°C
Packaging	Triple layer packaging system
Samples from patients are an extreme biohazard risk; testing should be conducted under maximum biological containment conditions.	

Detailed guidelines are available on the website of WHO (www.who.int).

CC:

1. All Regional Directors, MoHFW
2. PS to Director, NCDC, Delhi -54
3. Dr. Shashi Khare, HoD Microbiology, NCDC, Delhi-54
4. Dr. Veena Mittal, HoD Zoonosis, NCDC, Delhi -54
5. Director Emergency Medical Relief (EMR), Nirman Bhawan, MoHFW, New Delhi
6. JS (AP), Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

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