

**DIRECTIVE AND ORDER
OF THE MARYLAND SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
TO REPORT EBOLA CASE INFORMATION AND
TO TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT TRANSMISSION OF EBOLA**

Whereas the World Health Organization (“WHO”) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have issued health advisories concerning the spread of an infectious and/or contagious condition known as Ebola Virus Disease (“EVD”), which is caused by Ebola Virus (“Ebola”);

Whereas Ebola is capable of causing extensive loss of life or serious disability and is identified as a deadly agent as defined in § 18-901(c) of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Code;

Whereas prompt reporting of EVD cases and the proper use of infection control measures are required for effective control of Ebola;

Whereas EVD can at present be medically contained by the Department and appropriate health care providers; and

Whereas §§ 18-201 and 18-202 of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Code require physicians and hospitals to report immediately any case of certain conditions or infectious or contagious diseases designated by the Secretary as reportable;

Now, therefore, I, Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, pursuant to §§ 2-104, 18-102, 18-103(a), 18-904 and 18-905 of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Code, finding it necessary for the control of communicable disease, for the maintenance of an effective disease surveillance system, and for the investigation of actual or potential exposures to Ebola, hereby order and direct as follows:

1. All health care providers and health care facilities, as those terms are defined in § 18-901 of the Health-General Article, shall:
 - a. Become familiar with the current CDC case definition of EVD as set forth at the CDC Ebola website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html>;
 - b. Consult with the local health department for the jurisdiction in which the practitioner, provider, or facility is located for assistance with EVD case detection, classification, testing, and prevention, as necessary;

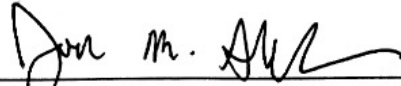
- c. Submit immediate telephonic and written morbidity and other reports to the local health department for the jurisdiction in which the practitioner, provider, or facility is located, *see* Md. Code Ann., Health-Gen. §§ 18-201 and 18-202;
- d. Follow the current CDC infection prevention protocols as posted on the CDC website and take such additional infection control measures as are necessary to prevent person-to-person transmission of EVD;
- e. Educate and instruct a suspected EVD case on appropriate infection control measures to prevent transmission of Ebola to others;
- f. Not release a suspected EVD case unless and until the immediate reporting requirements in section 1(c) of this Order have been completed and the local health department concurs with the release; and
- g. Immediately notify by telephone the local health department for the jurisdiction in which the practitioner, provider, or facility is located of any suspected EVD case who, in the practitioner or provider's judgment, is unwilling or unable to comply with the instructions in section 1(e) of this Order for preventing transmission of Ebola to others;

2. All Local Health Departments shall:

- a. Immediately notify the DHMH, Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, and Outbreak Response of any suspected EVD cases;
- b. Determine, under CDC guidelines and in consultation with the DHMH Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response, which persons might be contacts of a suspected EVD case;
- c. Provide guidance to suspected EVD cases and contacts of suspected EVD cases in complying with instructions for preventing transmission of Ebola;
- d. Notify the DHMH Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response at 410-767-6700 immediately if, in the local health department's judgment, an individual suspected of having EVD fails to comply with instructions for preventing transmission of Ebola; and
- e. Maintain the confidentiality of information collected in connection with this Order, as required by Title 4 and § 18-904(d) of the Health-General Article;

3. Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or other law enforcement officer of the State or any subdivision shall assist with the enforcement of any portion of this directive and order if directed to do so, as anticipated in § 18-905(a)(3) of the Health-General Article.

THIS DIRECTIVE AND ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 8
DAY OF OCTOBER, 2014, AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.



Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene