

EBOLA FAQs

Q. Where can I find facts and resources regarding Ebola?

A: Here are some links to pages on the CDC website with general information:

- CDC Phone Number: 800.232.4636
- CDC Ebola/Viral Hemorrhagic Fever website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>
- CFC Viral Special Pathogens Branch: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceid/dhcpp/vspb/>
- Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in U.S. Hospitals:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>
- State Health Laboratories: <http://www.aphl.org/aboutaphl/memberlabs/pages/default.aspx>
- CDC - Interim Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transport, Testing, and Submission for Persons Under Investigation for Ebola Virus Disease in United States:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html>
- American Society For Microbiology - Interim Laboratory Guidelines for Handling/Testing Specimens from cases or Suspected Cases of Hemorrhagic Fever (HVF):
<https://www.asm.org/images/PSAB/Ebola9-10-14.pdf>
- [Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories \(BMBL\) 5th Edition](#)

Q: Should clients send requests for Ebola testing to ARUP?

A: **No.** Specimens from suspected Ebola patients should not be sent to ARUP. All reagents and protocols are being managed exclusively by the CDC. Refer clients to their local and state health departments per the CDC. Any laboratory testing requested on specimens from suspected Ebola patients (e.g. malaria, typhoid fever, or other hemorrhagic fevers) should not be sent to ARUP but should be held until results for Ebola testing are confirmed as negative by the CDC.

Q: Can ARUP help with shipping samples to the CDC or state health department?

A: No, specimens should not be shipped to ARUP for transport to the CDC.

Q: How do we submit requests for routine lab results (chemistry, hematology, etc.) including the provision for blood products for transfusion?

A: Any laboratory testing requested on specimens from suspected Ebola patients (e.g. malaria, typhoid fever, or other hemorrhagic fevers) should not be sent to ARUP but should be held until results for Ebola testing are confirmed as negative by the CDC. The CDC recommends minimal contact and laboratory testing.

- [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in U.S. Hospitals--Key Components of Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions Recommended for Prevention of EHF Transmission in U.S. Hospitals.](#)
- Phlebotomy, procedures, and laboratory testing should be limited to the minimum necessary for essential diagnostic evaluation and medical care.

Q: How does the CDC test for Ebola?

A: The CDC uses the following methodologies for testing:

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever-Diagnosis

Within a few days after symptoms begin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antigen-capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing• IgM ELISA• Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)• Virus isolation
Later in disease course or after recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IgM and IgG antibodies
Retrospectively in deceased patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immunohistochemistry testing• PCR• Virus isolation