

# High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) - Patient Transfer by Ambulance

## GUIDANCE FOR FRONTLINE FACILITIES

### Background

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in partnership with the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regulatory Board, in response to the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak established a Workgroup to focus on the **safe inter facility patient transfer transport** (patient and EMS personnel) to the appropriate assessment and treatment facility. The Workgroup represented EMS, regional health care coalitions, local & tribal public health.

A set of preparedness criteria were created for ambulance response and transport to a suspect or confirmed HCID patient. All EMS agencies that operate in Minnesota were given the option to self-identify and voluntarily meet and maintain these higher standards. Seven (7) licensed ambulance services agreed to respond statewide and transport a suspected or confirmed HCID patient to an Ebola Assessment and Treatment Center (University of Minnesota Medical Center-West Bank, Minneapolis or Mayo Clinic St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester). Thereby creating a Minnesota infectious disease inter facility patient transport network.

*Hospitals who suspect or identify a patient of a high consequence infectious nature should follow their normal protocol or procedure to request ambulance transport for a patient transfer.*

Minnesota Department of Health  
Emergency Preparedness and Response  
651-201-5700 / [health.epr@state.mn.us](mailto:health.epr@state.mn.us)  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/index.html>

### HCID Transfer Request Protocol

1. **Regardless of circumstance**, please follow your **normal protocol** and contact your hospital's usual EMS hospital-to-hospital ambulance transport provider.
2. If your usual EMS hospital-to-hospital ambulance transport provider is not prepared or not one of the identified HCID services, **your usual ambulance service will contact an appropriate HCID Ready Ambulance Service.**
3. Please **Do NOT** attempt to contact an identified HCID EMS Ready Ambulance Service on your own. **THIS WILL CREATE A DELAY IN PATIENT TRANSPORT.**

**If there are any clinical questions while awaiting transport, please contact the Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division at MDH at [651-201-5414](tel:651-201-5414) or [1-877-676-5414](tel:1-877-676-5414) and ask for the Medical Director 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

### Identified Ebola/HCID Minnesota Ambulance Services

- Allina Health Emergency Medical Services
- Altru Ambulance Service
- F-M Ambulance Service
- Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service
- MHealth Ambulance Service
- North Memorial Health Ambulance Service
- CentraCare EMS , Willmar