

This Fact Sheet informs you of the significant known and potential risks and benefits of the emergency use of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Ebola Virus NP Real-Time RT-PCR (EBOV NP rRT-PCR) Assay.

Testing should be conducted on specimens from people with signs and symptoms of Ebola virus disease (EVD) and with epidemiological risk factors. If Ebola is suspected based on current clinical and/or epidemiological screening criteria **AND** testing is recommended by CDC and state and local public health authorities the EBOV NP rRT-PCR Assay should be ordered only to presumptively diagnose Ebola virus disease (EVD). If outside the U.S., testing should follow appropriate public health authority consultation and/or guidance for the diagnosis and reporting of EVD. All information and guidance, including for Ebola virus laboratory testing, may change as more data is gathered on this virus. Please check the CDC's Ebola virus website (see links provided in "Where can I go for updates and more information" section) regularly for the most current information.

### All patients whose specimens are tested with this assay should receive the Fact Sheet for Patients: EBOV NP rRT-PCR Assay

#### What are the symptoms of EVD?

Most patients with EVD develop fever, severe headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and lack of appetite. Some cases also have a rash, conjunctival hemorrhage, hiccups, cough, sore throat, chest pain, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, or other unexplained hemorrhage. Signs and symptoms may appear any time from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola virus, although an incubation period of 8-10 days is typical.

Public health officials have determined that Ebola virus has the potential to spread to the United States and pose risks for the public health. The first imported case in the U.S. was identified on September 30, 2014. All EVD cases confirmed as of September 2014 have been directly or indirectly linked through residence in or travel

**This test should be performed only on individuals with signs and symptoms of EVD and/or with epidemiological risk factors AND testing is recommended by CDC and state and local public health authorities.**

to African countries that are involved in Ebola virus epidemics.

#### What do I need to know about Ebola virus testing?

Current information on EVD for healthcare providers, including case definitions and infection control, is available at CDC's website, *Information for Healthcare Workers* (see links provided in "Where can I go for updates and more information" section).

- The EBOV NP rRT-PCR Assay can be used to test whole blood, serum, plasma and urine specimens. Whole blood specimens are considered a priority for collection and testing. Urine specimens should be tested in conjunction with a patient-matched whole blood, serum, or plasma specimen.
- The EBOV NP rRT-PCR Assay should be ordered for the presumptive detection of Ebola virus (species *Zaire ebolavirus*) in individuals with signs and symptoms of EVD in conjunction with epidemiological risk factors (including geographic locations with high prevalence of EVD) **AND** testing is recommended by the CDC and state and local public health authorities.
- The EBOV NP rRT-PCR Assay is authorized for use in qualified laboratories designated by CDC.

Specimens should be collected with appropriate infection control precautions for Ebola viruses following CDC guidance for case investigation and specimen collection and according to the manufacturer's instructions for the specimen collection device, handling, and storage.

Use appropriate personal protective equipment when collecting and handling specimens from individuals suspected of being infected with Ebola virus. These specimens should be shipped for analysis only to

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qualified laboratories designated by CDC for analysis. For additional information, refer to CDC *Guidance for Collection, Transport and Submission of Specimens for Ebola Virus Testing* (see links provided in "How can I learn more" section).

#### **What does it mean if the specimen tests positive for Ebola virus?**

A positive test result for Ebola virus indicates that RNA from Ebola virus was detected, and the patient is presumptively infected with Ebola virus (species *Zaire ebolavirus*) and presumed to be contagious. Laboratory test results should always be considered in the context of clinical observations and epidemiological data in making a final diagnosis and patient management decisions. Patient management should follow current CDC guidelines.

The EBOV NP rRT-PCR Assay has been designed to minimize the likelihood of false positive test results. However, in the event of a false positive result, risks to patients could include the following: a recommendation for quarantine of the patient, monitoring of household or other close contacts for symptoms, patient isolation that might limit contact with family or friends and may increase contact with other potentially EVD infected patients, the ability to work, the delayed diagnosis and treatment for the true infection causing the symptoms, unnecessary prescription of a treatment or therapy, or other unintended adverse effects.

All laboratories using this test must follow the recommended standard confirmatory testing and reporting guidelines according to their appropriate public health authorities.

#### **What does it mean if the specimen tests negative for Ebola virus?**

A negative test result for this test means that Ebola virus RNA was not present in the specimen above the limit of detection. However, a negative result does not rule out Ebola virus infection and should not be used as the sole basis for treatment or patient management decisions. A negative result does not exclude the possibility of Ebola virus infection.

When diagnostic testing is negative, the possibility of a false negative result should be considered in the context

of a patient's recent exposures and the presence of clinical signs and symptoms consistent with Ebola virus infection. The possibility of a false negative result should especially be considered if the patient's recent exposures or clinical presentation indicate that EVD is likely, and diagnostic tests for other causes of illness (e.g., other hemorrhagic illness) are negative. If EVD is still suspected based on exposure history together with other clinical findings, re-testing should be considered in consultation with public health authorities.

Risks to a patient of a false negative include: delayed or lack of treatment, stopping treatment too soon, lack of monitoring of household or other close contacts for symptoms resulting in increased risk of spread of EVD within the community, or other unintended adverse events.

#### **What is an EUA?**

The United States (U.S.) FDA has made this test available under an emergency access mechanism called an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). The EUA is supported by a Secretary of Health and Human Service's (HHS's) declaration that circumstances exist to justify the use of in vitro diagnostic devices (IVDs) under EUA for the detection of Ebola virus.

An IVD made available under an EUA has not undergone the full validation of an FDA-approved or cleared IVD. However, based on the totality of scientific evidence, it is reasonable to believe that this IVD may be effective in the detection of Ebola virus (species *Zaire ebolavirus*), in the absence of an commercially available FDA-approved or cleared alternative.

The EUA for this test is in effect for the duration of the Ebola emergency, unless terminated or revoked (after which the test may no longer be used). An FDA approved or cleared IVD should be used instead of an IVD under EUA, when applicable and available.

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### Where can I go for updates and more information?

#### **CDC websites:**

**General:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

#### **Information for Healthcare Workers:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/abroad/healthcare-workers.html>

**For Clinicians:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/index.html>

**Lab Guidance:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/laboratory-personnel/index.html>

**Specimen Collection:** <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/laboratory-personnel/specimens.html>

#### **FDA websites:**

**EUAs:**(includes links to patient fact sheet and manufacturer's instructions) <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/emergency-situations-medical-devices/emergency-use-authorizations>

#### **Manufacturer: CDC**

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