



Disinfection and Disposal of Household Goods Belonging to Patients Infected with Ebola Virus Disease

Technical Information Paper No. 37-032-1014

1. Purpose. This information paper provides guidance for disinfection and disposal of household goods and structures belonging to patients infected with the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). It is not intended to change any existing Department of Defense (DoD) directives, policies, or procedures related to normal waste management in on-post housing units.

2. Applicability. This information is applicable to structural interiors and household goods located in housing units on Army installations. Off-post housing units will be subject to local public health authority guidance in the communities adjoining the military installations. This document is not intended to be a step-by-step instruction and should be read in its entirety prior to commencing with any onsite disinfection activities. Contracting officials should ensure that all recommended actions are performed by personnel licensed and trained in the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), respirator protection program, hazardous materials management, hazards related to the Ebola virus (EBV), and waste management and disposal practices.

3. Background. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that the 2014 outbreak is the largest outbreak of EVD in history and the first in West Africa. The U.S. Army has selected approximately 3,500 soldiers to deploy to the region in support of the medical aid effort in the region. Consequently, a potential exists for soldiers to contract EVD during the mission and return to their on-post housing units prior to detection of the disease.

4. Reference. See reference listed at the end of this document.

5. Disinfection.

a. **Non-soiled Items.** Household goods and personal effects in the home that do not come in contact with persons ill with EVD do not require special decontamination but can be cleaned with soap and water.

b. **Items Contacted with Body Fluids.** Household goods and personal effects in the home that have been in contact with persons ill or suspected to be ill with EVD must be disinfected using either bleach or an identified U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) disinfectant suitable for EBV decontamination.

c. **Use of Professional Support.** Disinfection should be performed by personnel trained and experienced in biological waste clean-up. There are commercial companies specializing in crime and trauma scene clean-up that have required training and experience. Healthcare facilities and Department of

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Public Works (DPW) should work with contracting to identify and research companies available in the local area in advance.

d. Guidance for Commercial Cleaning Contracts. Contracts for household cleanup should include the following information/requirements.

(1) The Contractor shall provide all State required permits for treatment and transport.

(2) A Site Safety and Health Plan will be developed detailing what PPE will be used, procedures for disinfection (porous and non-porous), treatment of infectious waste prior to transport off site as regulated medical waste, and how and where waste will be disposed.

(3) An EPA registered disinfectant identified as suitable for EBV decontamination, or bleach at a 10:1 solution will be used. The EPA has identified a number of disinfectants suitable for EBV decontamination. The disinfectants on *List G: EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products Effective Against Norovirus* have been identified as being acceptable for use against EBV. A large number of these are peroxide and acidic/alkaline-based cleaners¹.

(4) In order to meet Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations for transport as regulated medical waste, all infectious waste will be treated on site prior to removal.

(5) All non-porous items/surfaces will be wiped down using specified disinfectants. Those items will then be classified as noninfectious and can be retained by the residents of the home.

6. Disposal.

a. Contaminated Porous Items. Porous items in direct contact with body fluids from infected patients will be considered saturated beyond home treatment capabilities and will be removed from the home for disposal as Regulated Medical Waste (RMW). Ensure that porous items identified for RMW disposal are disinfected on site prior to removal from the home for disposal to facilitate permissible transport off the installation.

b. RMW Transport. Items selected for disposal must be transported off the installation for treatment and disposal as RMW once they are treated onsite to permit the classification as RMW instead of EBV. Identify the company who will transport the waste to a licensed RMW treatment and disposal facility (if it is different from the clean-up company) to ensure the company is a state licensed and approved transporter for RMW.

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7. Point of Contact. The point of contact for this document is the Army Institute of Public Health Waste Management Program at 410-436-3651 or DSN 584-3651.

Reference:

¹ http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/list_g_norovirus.pdf