

Guidance for Local Health Departments On Isolation and Quarantine Procedures for Ebola

Isolation means the physical separation, including confinement or restriction, of an individual or a group of individuals from the general public if the individual or group is infected with the Ebola, in order to prevent or limit the transmission of the disease to an uninfected individual.

Quarantine means the physical separation, including confinement or restriction of movement, of an individual or a group of individuals who have been exposed to the Ebola, during the disease's period of communicability, in order to prevent or limit the transmission of the disease to an uninfected individual.

Implementing Isolation and Quarantine during an Ebola outbreak

Indiana's Isolation and Quarantine Statute is IC 16-41-9-1.5. It allows for the State Health Commissioner, the State Health Commissioner's designee, a Local Health Officer, or an authorized health or hospital corporation to order a person or persons into isolation or quarantine. Isolated patients will likely be hospitalized so their needs will be addressed in the hospital.

People in quarantine will likely be housed at home or moved to a separate living facility. Large quarantine shelters will be unlikely. While in quarantine, the local jurisdiction should provide quarantined individuals with food and other daily living needs. The local health department should also provide daily health checks to see if anyone has developed symptoms of Ebola. Lastly, the local health department should work with local partners to help quarantined people meet other basic needs.

It is recommended that local health departments distribute information to the public concerning the risks of Ebola, how the disease is transmitted, precautions to reduce transmission, as well as all known symptoms and treatments.

The local health officer has three options to isolate or quarantine individuals known or suspected of having Ebola. First, the local health officer may seek to get an isolation or quarantine order granted by a circuit or superior court in the respective county. The isolation or quarantine order will only be granted after the court holds a hearing where the individual to be isolated or quarantined has had an opportunity to be heard. Secondly, the local health officer may seek to get an emergency order of isolation or quarantine. An emergency order of isolation is granted by a circuit or superior court without a hearing. However, the local health officer must convince the court that the individual to be isolated or quarantined will expose an uninfected individual to Ebola before that individual can be provided notice and an opportunity to be heard. Lastly, the local health officer may issue an immediate order of isolation or quarantine. An immediate order of isolation or quarantine may only be issued if exigent circumstances exist that make it impracticable for the local health officer to seek an order from a court, and obtaining the individual's voluntary compliance is or has proven impracticable or ineffective. An immediate order of isolation or quarantine expires after seventy-two (72) hours. When the seventy-two hour period ends, the local health officer must petition a circuit or superior court in their county to renew the order of isolation or quarantine.

A person who knowingly and intentionally violates a condition of isolation or quarantine commits a Class A misdemeanor. State and local law enforcement agencies will cooperate with the local health officer to enforce an order of isolation or quarantine.

Please read the statute for more detailed information. Additionally, please refer to the Indiana State Department of Health's "Implementing Isolation and Quarantine" manual for further guidance. Local

jurisdictions should make certain all appropriate individuals are familiar with the Isolation and Quarantine Statute including the Local Health Department staff, the Local Health Officer, the EMA, the County Attorney, and any judge who may be involved.

- 1) The Local Health Officer should make every attempt to talk the person into voluntary isolation or quarantine
- 2) If the Local Health Officer is unsuccessful in garnering voluntary compliance, he should seek one of the following orders of isolation or quarantine;
 - a. Order of Isolation or Quarantine (Granted after Hearing w/ Individual)
 - b. Emergency Order of Isolation or Quarantine (Granted w/o Individual)
 - c. Immediate Order of Isolation or Quarantine (Issued by Local Health Officer)
- 3) State and local law enforcement agencies will cooperate with the local health officer to enforce an order of isolation or quarantine
- 4) The Local Health Departments should:
 - a. Distribute information to the public concerning:
 - i. The risks of the disease
 - ii. How the disease is transmitted
 - iii. Available precautions to reduce the risk of contracting the disease
 - iv. Symptoms of the disease
 - v. Available medical or nonmedical treatments for the disease
 - b. Instruct the public concerning social distancing
 - c. Request the public inform the local health officer or a law enforcement agency if a family member contracts the disease
 - d. Instruct the public on self quarantine and provide a distinctive means of identifying a home that is self quarantined
 - e. Instruct the public on the appropriate means of reducing exposure to the disease
 - f. Close schools, athletic events, and other nonessential situations in which people gather. If quarantine is imposed the public health authority shall ensure to the extent possible, quarantined individuals have sufficient supplies to remain in their own home

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