### EBOLA ACTION CARD: COMMUNITY STAFF

**WHO IS THIS ACTION CARD AIM AT?**

This Action Card has been issued to provide LPT community staff with instructions on what to do in the event that they consider a patient to be a suspected Ebola patient (see Identifying Suspected Ebola Patients box below).

### IDENTIFYING SUSPECTED EBOLA PATIENTS

**Do any of these conditions apply to the patient / service user?**

Ebola should be suspected in patients presenting to primary care services who have a fever of ≥37.5°C OR have a history of fever in the past 24 hours AND have recently visited any of the affected areas (Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia as of 25th November 2014) within the previous 21 days.

**OR**

Have a fever of ≥37.5°C OR have a history of fever in the past 24 hours AND have cared for/come into contact with body fluids of/handled clinical specimens (blood, urine, faeces, tissues, laboratory cultures) from an individual or laboratory animal known or strongly suspected to have VHF.

### INFECTION RISK

Ebola is transmitted by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person (alive or dead). **People infected with Ebola can only spread the virus to other people once they have developed symptoms,** such as fever. Even if someone has symptoms, it’s important to remember that the virus is only transmitted by direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person. The incubation period of Ebola ranges from 2 to 21 days.
ACTIONS TO FOLLOW

PATIENTS WHO HAVE CONTACTED YOU BY TELEPHONE

Any patients who call to say they are unwell and who meet the conditions of a suspected Ebola patient should be told to stay at home (self isolate) and call 111 or their GP immediately. They must not go to their GP or a hospital.

If appropriate contact 111 or their GP yourself to alert them to the patient.

If 111 / GP consider there is a risk of Ebola they should take over responsibility for the patient.

Inform your line manager / Manager On-call (On-Call via 0116 225 6000).

PATIENTS YOU ARE VISITING IN THEIR HOME

If you are visiting a patient or service user in their home and are unwell and meet the conditions of a suspected Ebola patient:

- Advise the patient to stay where they are (i.e. self isolation at home).
- No clinical or diagnostic interventions must be undertaken.
- Follow hand hygiene protocols.
- Personal Protective Equipment is not necessary unless the patient is vomiting, has diarrhoea or is bleeding. In this situation:
  - Stringent and prudent use of personal protective equipment (PPE) i.e. single use gloves and aprons, eye protection must be worn.
  - If you have no PPE do not have personal contact with the patient.
- Call 111 to seek advice. They will ask you a number of questions in order to establish the likelihood that the patient has Ebola.

If 111 considered the patient to be a potential Ebola Patient:

- Follow their instructions.
- They will arrange for an ambulance to transfer the patient to hospital.
- Reassure the patient, but do not provide clinical interventions.
- Inform your line manager (out of hours ensure the on call manager is informed).
- In hours: Inform LPT Infection Control Team on 0116 295 1668.
- Out of hours: Public Health England on 0344 225 4524 (so they can consider further follow up and decontamination of the premises).

If the patient’s conditions deteriorate (vomiting, diarrhoea) alert 111 immediately. Inform the ambulance crew on their arrival.

KEY CONTACT NUMBERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NHS 111</th>
<th>111</th>
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<tr>
<td>LPT Infection Prevention and Control</td>
<td>0116 295 1668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health England</td>
<td>0344 225 4524</td>
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<tr>
<td>LPT Divisional On-Call Managers</td>
<td>Via 0116 225 6000</td>
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