



TRACIE

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INFORMATION GATEWAY

Laboratory
Topic Collection
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Topic Collection: Laboratory

Laboratories serve many purposes during and after disasters—especially public health emergencies. The 2014 Ebola outbreak highlighted the need for quick, accurate test results, and other recent events call for the healthcare system to maintain a healthy blood supply in advance of a disaster. This Topic Collection includes resources related to collecting, preparing, and testing specimens (including a template for Ebola testing) and maintaining the blood supply.

This ASPR TRACIE Topic Collection is in the process of being developed and comprehensively reviewed. If you have resources to recommend for inclusion in this Topic Collection, specifically illustrative examples, plans, tools or templates, please email your recommendations to askasprtracie@hhs.gov.

AABB. (2008). [Disaster Operations Handbook: Coordinating the Nation's Blood Supply During Disasters and Biological Events \(Version 2\)](#).

This handbook was created to help blood centers, hospital blood banks, and transfusion services plan for natural and human-caused disasters that can affect the blood supply. It can help the appropriate officials determine the medical need for blood, effectively transport it from one facility to another, and communicate internally and externally about the status of the blood supply.

Association of Public Health Laboratories. (2014). [Template for Public Health Laboratory Risk Assessment for Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\) Testing](#).

Laboratory staff can download and tailor this template to meet their requirements. It includes comprehensive information on using enhanced precautions and personal protective equipment when handling high-risk Ebola specimens.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). [Guidance for U.S. Laboratories for Managing and Testing Routine Clinical Specimens When There is a Concern About Ebola Virus Disease](#).

This guidance is geared toward clinicians who are responsible for managing and testing clinical specimens for Ebola. Guidance covers the use of personal protective equipment, laboratory equipment, patient transport, decontamination, and other related topics.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). [Interim Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transport, Testing, and Submission for Persons Under Investigation for Ebola Virus Disease in the United States](#).

This guidance, synthesized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is intended to help laboratory workers safely collect, transport, and submit specimens for Ebola virus testing.

Hill, C., Burd, E., Kraft, C., et al. (2014). [Laboratory Test Support for Ebola Patients Within a High-Containment Facility](#). Lab Medicine. 45, e109-e111.

The authors (from Emory University) share the story of two U.S. nationals who contracted the Ebola virus while working in Africa. They list the instruments used to provide core assays and how they were used in the isolation facility.