

New Jersey Department of Health

Division of Epidemiology, Environmental, and Occupational Health
Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program

The State of New Jersey is actively preparing for the potential management and care of residents infected with the Ebola Virus (a.k.a. Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever or EHF). Public employers will likely be involved as part of an effective statewide response to this public health threat. Potential public employees may include:

- Police - Mandatory quarantine enforcement
- Public Health Professionals – Patient/Contact Screening and quarantine case management
- Fire/EMS – Patient Transport/Ambulance Decontamination
- Hospitals - Patient Care
- Public Health/Medical Laboratories – Laboratory Testing of biohazardous samples
- Public Works/Sewage Treatment Plants – Decontamination of public spaces, Transportation of medical waste/Maintenance of public utilities and decontamination of sanitary waste

Employers are encouraged to review and update response plans that apply to their facilities including the Hazard Communication Written Program (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hazard Assessment (29 CFR 1910.132), Written Respiratory Protection Standard (29 CFR 1910.134), and the Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) Exposure Control Plan (ECP)(29 CFR 1910.1030) in order to effectively protect responding employees and ensure that these critical public services remain functional. Technical guidance on the development of these policies is available on the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Program website (www.nj.gov/health/peosh/). Additional guidance on the topic can be found on the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website (<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ebola/index.html>), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>), and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) website (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ebola/>).

The selection of the appropriate level of PPE will depend on the specific work being conducted and site specific conditions. Given these site and task specific conditions, employers are required to evaluate each job task to identify potential hazards and provide appropriate protection for their employees. The NJDOH – PEOSH Program

remains available for consultation in evaluating these hazards and selecting appropriate PPE. The PEOSH Program can be reached at 609-984-1863 or (<http://www.nj.gov/health/peosh/>)

The NJDOH is also strongly encouraging these employers to conduct Hands-on-Training (HOT) and drills to ensure that employees have adequate supplies of PPE, can wear it properly, and mechanisms are in place for proper decontamination and disposal of potentially infected materials.