

# **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) for Ebola or Marburg: Creating an Isolation Area in Your Facility**

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**Healthcare Settings with Limited to Intermediate Resources**

**Updated: June 2026**

# Learning Objectives

After this presentation, participants will be able to

- Explain why isolating suspected Ebola or Marburg patients is important
- Describe at least 3 best practices for setting up a short-term isolation area for suspected Ebola or Marburg patients

# Discuss

Why is it important to keep people who might have Ebola or Marburg isolated from other patients in a healthcare facility?

**Early identification and separation of suspected  
Ebola or Marburg patients prevents bringing  
unrecognized Ebola or Marburg into your healthcare  
setting.**

This protects...

**YOU**

**Your co-workers & patients**

**Your community**

A decorative horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide, composed of several colored rectangular segments: orange, olive green, brown, teal, purple, and blue.

Setting Up an Isolation Area

# Isolation

When a suspect Ebola or Marburg patient is identified, the patient should be **isolated** to prevent spreading the illness to others.

**Every facility should have space identified that can function as isolation** until the patient can be transferred to a designated facility for testing and care.

# Isolation Area Requirements

- **Separate from other patient care areas, such as:**
  - Separate building
  - Temporary structure/tent
  - Demarcated area (under a tree)
- **Designated for use only as Ebola or Marburg isolation**
  - Should not be dual purpose
- **Restricted access**
  - Fencing, taped off, etc.
  - Only healthcare workers should enter isolation (to give oral medicines, etc.)



# Isolation Area Design



- **Unidirectional flow**
  - Ideally, separate entrance and exit
  - Dedicated spaces for putting on and removing PPE
  - Separate patient care supplies
- **Appropriate spacing**
  - At least one meter between beds
- **Supplies to hold patients temporarily and safely**
  - Separate toileting options for each patient (e.g., latrine or commode bucket)
  - Hand hygiene stations

# Isolation Area Equipment & Supplies

| For patients                                                                                                                                                                                           | Patient care<br>(IF REQUIRED)                                                                                                                                                   | Cleaning and<br>disinfection                                                                                                                                                                                      | Waste                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chairs, or bench if no chairs available</li><li>• Food and water</li><li>• Hand hygiene station</li><li>• <a href="#">Separate toilet or latrine</a></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PPE for healthcare workers</li><li>• Hand hygiene stations for healthcare workers</li><li>• Designated patient care equipment</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0.5% chlorine solution (for disinfection) or other approved hospital disinfectant*</li><li>• Soap and water</li><li>• Cleaning equipment (buckets, cloths, mop)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biohazard waste bin (red)</li><li>• General waste bin</li></ul> |

\* Alcohol at 70-90% (ethanol, isopropyl), improved hydrogen peroxide  $\geq 0.5\%$

# PPE Removal Area Equipment & Supplies

- The PPE removal area should have:
  - Bucket of strong (0.5%) chlorine solution (for non-porous items, such as boots, goggles)
  - Bucket of mild (0.05%) chlorine solution (for porous items, such as cloth gowns)
  - Container with a lid for infectious waste
  - Container for reusable PPE
  - Hand hygiene supplies

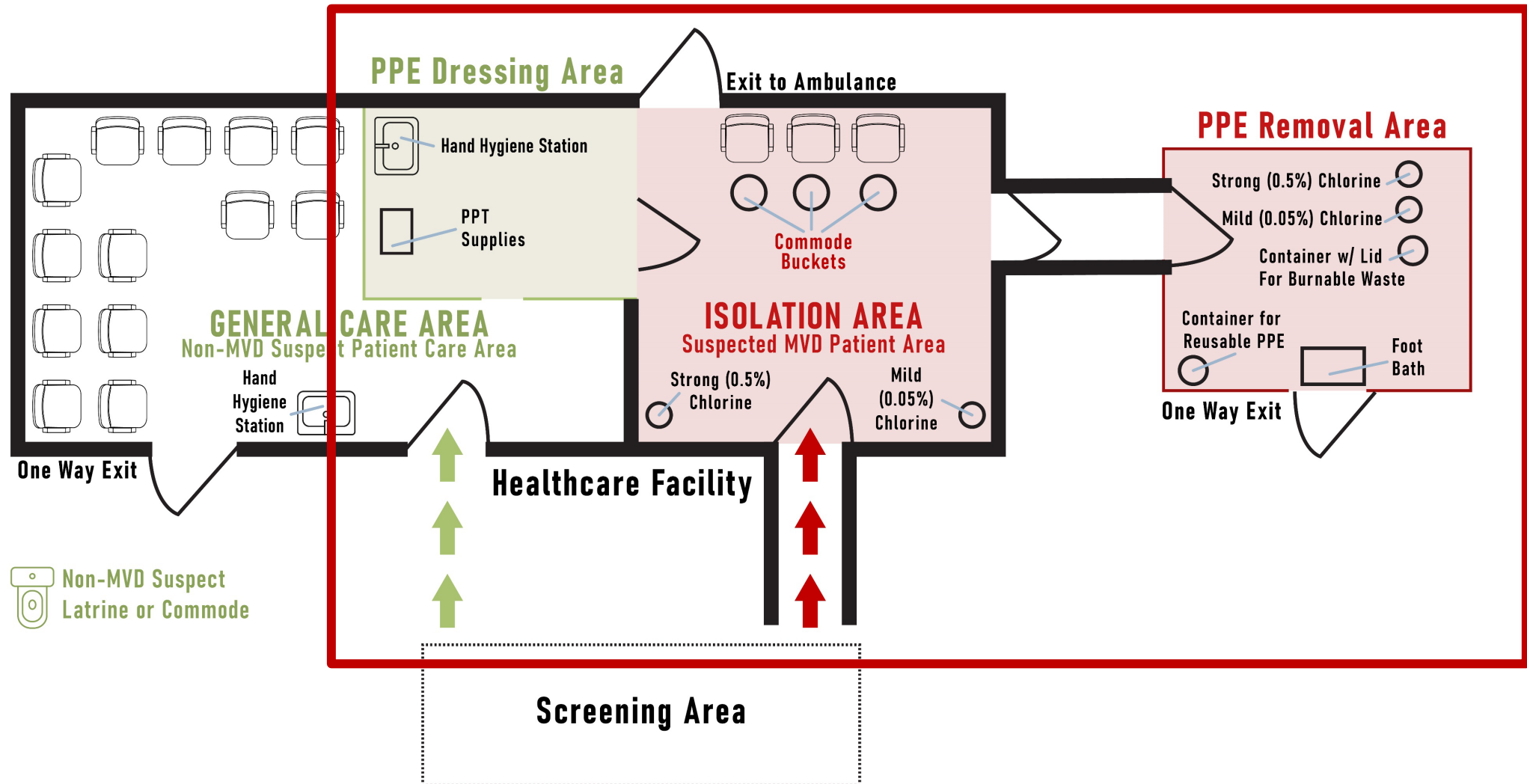


**Biohazard waste bin  
(can be yellow or red)**



**Bucket for dirty, reusable  
PPE to be reprocessed**

# Example Facility Setup



# Reflection

- How is the isolation area for Ebola or Marburg different from other isolation areas you might have had to set up in the past?
- What challenges has your facility had in the past with setting up isolation areas?
- If you have never had to participate in setting up an isolation area, what challenges do you imagine your facility might have?

# Key Takeaways

- **Isolation** prevents people sick with Ebola or Marburg from spreading the illness to others. **It protects you, your co-workers and patients, and your community.**
- **Every facility should have a separate isolation area** for suspected Ebola or Marburg patients until they can be transferred to a designated facility for testing and care.

# Thank you!

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

