

## EBOLA Reporting, Isolation and Quarantine FAQs

### General Questions

1. Are health care providers required to report suspected Ebola cases?
2. What is isolation?
3. What is quarantine?
4. What happens if someone does not agree to isolation/quarantine?
5. Who has authority in Tennessee to protect the health of the public if someone will not voluntarily cooperate with health authorities and they present a risk to others?

#### 1) Are health care providers required to report suspected cases?

Yes. Ebola is included on the reportable disease list in Tennessee. Health care providers are required to report cases immediately. Suspected cases should be reported to the Health Department (Local, Regional, or Department of Health Communicable and Environmental Disease Services and Emergency Preparedness) by telephone. A written PH-1600 form should be submitted to the Health Department within one week. More information on reporting can be found at: <http://health.state.tn.us/ReportableDiseases/Default.aspx>

#### 2) What is isolation?

Isolation is a measure used to separate infected persons, or persons reasonably believed to be infected, from others in the community during their infectious period.

#### 3) What is quarantine?

Quarantine is a measure that separates persons exposed to a known or suspected case from others in the community. The quarantined person is not typically ill but is simply being observed for symptoms while separated from unexposed persons in the community.

#### 4) What happens if someone does not agree to isolation/quarantine?

Under Tennessee law, the Commissioner of Health (“Commissioner”), a Health Officer, and the Chief Medical Officer for the State of Tennessee are all authorized to issue a health directive requiring a person to cooperate with health authorities’ efforts to prevent or control disease transmission. A health directive may include, but is not limited to, medical tests and examinations, isolation and quarantine, or preventing or restricting access to premises.

#### 5) Who has authority in Tennessee to protect the health of the public if someone will not voluntarily cooperate with health authorities and they present a risk to others?

Under Tennessee law, both the Commissioner and Health Officer are authorized to protect the public when someone refuses to voluntarily cooperate with health authorities and presents a risk to others. The Commissioner or Health Officer may issue a health directive requiring cooperation. If the person does not cooperate pursuant to the health directive, the Commissioner may petition the General Sessions Court to order examination, isolation, or other appropriate treatment.

*Authority: T.C.A §§ 4-3-1803(1), (3), and (4), 68-1-103, 68-1-104, 68-1-201, 68-1-201, 68-5-104, and Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 1200-14-4 (2004).*

