Ebola Preparedness Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

How did Legacy develop the guidelines for putting on and taking off PPE?
Legacy Health adopted the donning and doffing guidelines used at Emory Healthcare and Nebraska Medical Center, two centers that have successfully treated Ebola patients without incident.

How do PPE donning and doffing guidelines prevent contamination from foot covers once clinicians leave a patient room?
In our PPE kits, we provide double layered shoe covers that extend to the knee. The instructions for removing PPE include steps for removing shoe/boot covers and wiping the shoes.

Will used supplies and instruments generated from the care and treatment of an Ebola patient be sent to central sterile?
No. Used supplies, instruments, and other waste materials will be contained within the extended isolation care unit where it will be packaged before it is removed from the building and incinerated off site.

Will housekeeping receive PPE training?
No. Housekeeping will not provide services in the isolation care unit. Housekeeping duties will be managed by the specialized care team in an effort to limit the number of employees and providers that have contact with a patient receiving treatment for Ebola.

Would an Ebola patient have special dietary needs that would warrant consultation and provision of services by dietary services?
No. Generally Ebola patients require basic nutrition with more focused attention on hydration. All nutrition and hydration therapy will be provided by the specialized care team in an effort to minimize staff contact.

Why hasn’t the state of Oregon designated one hospital for providing care to patients with Ebola?
Each Oregon health system is taking extraordinary measures to prepare for the unlikely need to treat a patient with Ebola. After meeting with the governor to discuss the possibility of a regional site for Ebola care and treatment, Oregon health system leaders decided that it would best to share this responsibility and to work together to ensure the best response.

If a patient under public health monitoring for Ebola in the community develops symptoms and is subsequently identified as high risk and in need of testing, will the patient be taken to the ED or to one of the state’s designated units?
If the CDC and public health determine that a patient under monitoring needs to be tested, the patient would be transported to one of the six designated units in the state. Emergency departments across the state are only being used for screening and isolation.

How long does it take to get results from an Ebola test?
An Ebola serology test must be transported to an approved testing site. Our closest testing site is in Washington; however, specimens are also sent to the CDC in Atlanta. It takes approximately 24-48 hours to receive Ebola test results.

Do you have additional questions about Ebola? If so, please send them to ebola@lhs.org