

Ebola Virus Talking Points (draft 4.0)

Public safety is always the top priority for public transit systems.

- APTA and the public transportation industry is closely monitoring this public health issue and we will work with the Center for Disease Control as well as coordinate with the U.S. DOT to take appropriate precautionary actions, if necessary.
- It should be stressed that there have been NO reported incidents of a person infected with Ebola traveling on a city bus or train.
- There is NO CDC directive on actions that public transit systems should take, although public transit systems are already diligent about cleaning their vehicles.

Background Information:

Cleaning:

Public transit systems nationwide have regular cleaning schedules for their buses, trains and facilities:

Cleaning includes:

- Cleaning vehicles' seats and floors
- Cleaning hand rails in vehicles
- Cleaning escalator rails
- Cleaning station floors

Emergencies:

Public transit systems have long-standing protocols for handling sick passengers and blood-borne incidents. Systems and personnel handle such incidents on a regular basis and immediately call emergency medical personnel through two-radios on vehicles.

Q: Are public transit systems changing what they do?

A: Every public transit system will assess their local situation and respond accordingly. Systems are also reinforcing with their employees the proper procedures and safety actions to take if a situation arises.

For example, the **Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T)**, has decided to intensify the cleaning of its buses. Every night the surfaces on buses that people touch are being scrubbed down with disinfectant. Also, instead of taking a bus out of service every quarter for a more detailed scrubbing, buses will now be removed every six weeks for a more detailed cleaning.

The T has already been using an ultraviolet-light system in its heating and air conditioning units on the buses light kills germs and virus-carrying particulates.

In Dallas, **the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)** already had the following practices in place. Vehicles are cleaned every time they come in from revenue service, so in some cases that means they are cleaned twice daily. DART previously established protocols for a biohazard and blood borne pathogen situation and has met with its staff and contractors to make sure the protocols are followed, including use of the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The same is true for our facilities. DART vehicles are also routinely taken out of service if there is a biohazard incident (someone throws up, for example) onboard. Additionally, vehicles also receive more detailed cleaning on a regular basis.

Q: What kinds of advice do you have for people who ride public transit?

A: We remind passengers that the risk of contracting the Ebola virus is very low, and that it is not an airborne virus like the flu. We always advise people to take precautionary measures and wash their hands frequently.