



Interim Guidance Regarding Disposal of Raw Sewage from Hospitalized Ebola Patients

The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) has developed the following guidance for hospitals and healthcare facilities for the disposal of sewage during the care of patients with either suspected or confirmed cases of the Ebola virus. This interim guidance was developed working in conjunction with water reclamation authorities in Clark County, namely the Clark County Water Reclamation District, City of Las Vegas Public Works & Water Reclamation, City of North Las Vegas Water Reclamation, and the City of Henderson Utility Services Wastewater Operations.

Notification

Upon receipt of information that a patient has been admitted to a hospital in Clark County, the Chief Health Officer or his designee will notify the above named water reclamation authorities. This notification will assist the respective agencies to advise their collection system and plant personnel, and answer any questions their employees and the public may have regarding Ebola contaminated wastewater.

Treatment

As a precautionary measure, SNHD is recommending that the human waste be treated in the toilet prior to flushing with a Sodium Hypochlorite (bleach) solution at a minimum concentration of 5,000 ppm available chlorine. Upon the addition of the appropriate bleach solution, the contents of the toilet bowl should be allowed to react for a minimum of 5 minutes prior to flushing. This contact time will allow the chlorine to kill pathogens including the Ebola virus before entering into the sanitary sewer system.

Control Measures

Toilets in isolation rooms and/or any room housing a suspected Ebola patient should have the flushing mechanism temporarily disengaged and in control of the nurse/attende. This will prevent inadvertent flushing of untreated sewage from entering into the sanitary sewer system.

(continued)

Protective Equipment and Spill Cleanup

In the event of an emetic or fecal accident, the area must be cleaned as a matter of urgency. Individuals, who clean up emesis or feces, should use the following procedures:

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as identified by the employer's Ebola Exposure and Infection Control Program. Please refer to the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Guidance on PPE](#).
- Use disposable cleaning cloths or paper towels to soak up excess liquid. Transfer these and any solid matter directly into a Biohazard bag. To remove gross debris, clean the soiled area with detergent and hot water, using a disposable cloth which and dispose into a Biohazard bag.
- Disinfect the contaminated area using a bleach solution containing a minimum of 5,000 ppm of available chlorine with a residence time of not less than 5 minutes.
- Dispose of mop heads, cleaning cloths, other materials used in the cleanup, and PPE into the Biohazard waste bag.

10-21-2014