Background
The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) in partnership with the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regulatory Board, in response to the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak established a Workgroup to focus on the safe inter facility patient transfer transport (patient and EMS personnel) to the appropriate assessment and treatment facility. The Workgroup represented EMS, regional health care coalitions, local & tribal public health.

A set of preparedness criteria were created for ambulance response and transport to a suspect or confirmed HCID patient. All EMS agencies that operate in Minnesota were given the option to self-identify and voluntarily meet and maintain these higher standards. Seven (7) licensed ambulance services agreed to respond statewide and transport a suspected or confirmed HCID patient to an Ebola Assessment and Treatment Center (University of Minnesota Medical Center-West Bank, Minneapolis or Mayo Clinic St. Mary’s Hospital, Rochester). Thereby creating a Minnesota infectious disease inter facility patient transport network.

Hospitals who suspect or identify a patient of a high consequence infectious nature should follow their normal protocol or procedure to request ambulance transport for a patient transfer.

HCID Transfer Request Protocol
1. Regardless of circumstance, please follow your normal protocol and contact your hospital’s usual EMS hospital-to-hospital ambulance transport provider.
2. If your usual EMS hospital-to-hospital ambulance transport provider is not prepared or not one of the identified HCID services, your usual ambulance service will contact an appropriate HCID Ready Ambulance Service.
3. Please Do Not attempt to contact an identified HCID EMS Ready Ambulance Service on your own. This will create a delay in patient transport.

If there are any clinical questions while awaiting transport, please contact the Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division at MDH at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 and ask for the Medical Director 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Identified Ebola/HCID Minnesota Ambulance Services
- Allina Health Emergency Medical Services
- Altru Ambulance Service
- F-M Ambulance Service
- Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service
- M Health Ambulance Service
- North Memorial Health Ambulance Service
- Willmar Ambulance Service/ Carris Health