



RON CHAPMAN, MD, MPH
Director & State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

October 29, 2014

Dear Local Health Officer,

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is supporting California's Local Health Departments (LHDs) to prepare for and respond to a potential Ebola virus disease case. CDPH has developed two tools to assess hospitals for preparedness for screening and treatment of an Ebola patient and identify gaps:

- Local Health Department Self-Assessment for Ebola Preparedness; and
- Local Health Department Tool for Assessing Hospital Preparedness for Ebola.

Surveying the capacity and preparedness of hospitals is necessary to determine readiness or areas for improvement to manage an Ebola patient. We ask that the LHDs conduct these assessments as soon as possible to confirm readiness and identify gaps. CDPH will offer preparedness assistance as needed once any gaps are identified.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is leading the national response to Ebola, providing tools and resources for hospitals, EMS systems, state and local health departments and other partners. The CDC and CDPH are working together to provide information, guidance and expertise, and regular communications with local partners to share the latest information about Ebola.

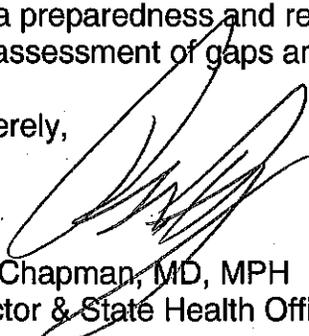
Currently, there are no confirmed cases of Ebola in California. However, with the large volume of international travel into California, there is a possibility that the first case of Ebola in California may occur within months or even weeks. It is essential that hospitals evaluate and test their plans and train their staff to ensure preparedness.

It is also important that LHDs test their preparations for a variety of important Ebola related activities. These include plans for an investigation of contacts to an Ebola case, systems for rapid reporting of suspect cases, and communications with local EMS authorities and hospitals, to ensure that patients are appropriately screened, transported and evaluated. Staff should be trained and public communication plans in place.

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The attached tool for LHDs to determine preparedness is designed to simplify your assessment. Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and partnership with CDPH for Ebola preparedness and response. I look forward to learning about your preparedness and assessment of gaps and how CDPH can best assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Chapman', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Ron Chapman, MD, MPH
Director & State Health Officer