



**Weekly Local Health Department Ebola Update Call
California Department of Public Health
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes**

International, National and California Update on Ebola

- The countries with widespread transmission of Ebola continue to include Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone; all travelers from those three countries continue screening upon entering the US and monitoring for 21 days.
 - There has been some slowing in the number of cases in Guinea
 - Liberia has leveled in the number of cases
 - Sierra Leone continues to increase in the number of cases.
- There are currently no Ebola cases in the U.S.
- In California, there are approx. 30-40 travelers monitored. There was increase in travelers during the holidays, but numbers have decreased.
 - Majority of travelers are low risk; few some risk
 - Majority of travelers are in metropolitan areas within 1-2 hours driving time to a Treatment hospital.
- Some travelers have been in rural/remote locations. CDPH invites local health jurisdictions (LHJs) to request a planning meeting for these travelers should they become symptomatic.

Update: Ebola Assessment Hospitals

CDPH and CCLHO are discussing the number of Ebola assessment hospitals needed for geographical/regional coverage of the state versus having many assessment hospitals. CDPH is also reaching out to the California Hospital Association.

CDPH will review the information on Ebola assessment hospitals obtained from the survey conducted recently, identify facilities to provide regional availability and then reach out to the local health departments to discuss.

Update: CDPH PPE Guidance for Inpatient Settings

On January 20, 2015, CDPH released a revision of the "Interim Guidance on PPE to be used by Healthcare Workers in the Inpatient Hospital Setting during Management of Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease". The guidance was revised to reflect the current recommendations of the CDC for PPE materials, including fluid resistant or impermeable materials. The January 12, 2015 version included recommendations for PPE for the early versus late stages of the disease; these recommendations are included in the January 20, 2015 version. This guidance document can be found on the CDPH website.



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Update: Sanitation/Sewer System Waste for Ebola

On January 13, 2015, the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) released a memorandum, "Revised Consensus Recommendations for Dialogue between the Wastewater Sector and Hospitals on the Management of Wastewater Generated by Patients Infected with the Ebola Virus". In this document,

- It is recommended that a hospital can discharge waste from an Ebola patient into the sewer system with pretreatment of a 5% bleach and waiting 15 minutes prior to discharge
- It is recommended that PPE be worn during the pretreatment of waste.
- Hospitals are encouraged to notify the local waste water agency if there is an EVD patient in the facility and that there will be a discharge of treated waste.

CASA hopes to conduct additional studies on the environment survival of EVD once funding is secured.

PHEP and HPP Supplemental Funding for Ebola

On January 15th, the CDC released the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Supplemental Cooperative Agreement for Ebola Preparedness and Response activities. A total of \$145 million in supplemental funding will be awarded to 62 nationwide grantees; California to receive \$7.6 million and Los Angeles County will receive \$3.1 million.

The award will have an 18 month spending period, April 1, 2015 to September 2016. CDPH will collaborate with the LHJs, CCLHO, and other partners to determine how the funds will be utilized.

The CDPH Emergency Preparedness Office is investigating use of a "grant" process to distribute funds to LHJs rather than revising the current contracts. If approved, this will be an efficient way to provide the funds without contract amendments.

The Hospital Preparedness Program will also be providing funding for Ebola activities; however, the guidance has not yet been released. Estimated date for release is late February 2015.



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Question and Answer Session:

Question:

Will the CDC be updating the official list of Ebola Treatment Hospitals to include the four Southern California hospitals?

Answer: On the CDC Website, the official list of Ebola Treatment Hospitals has been updated and includes the four Southern California Hospitals. This document can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/current-treatment-centers.html>

Question:

Will the HPP funding for Ebola activities include funding for assessment hospitals for only those that are formally designated or for any hospital?

Answer: The HPP funding guidance has not yet been released by the (Office of) the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR); therefore, grant mandates/allowable activities are unknown at this time. Estimated time for release of the guidance is late February 2015.

Question:

Does the CASA recommendation on waste water for Ebola patients discuss the products of hemodialysis? During dialysis, there is a large volume of waste.

Answer: The January 13, 2015 CASA recommendations do not address dialysis. CDPH will discuss with CASA.

Question:

RE: CASA waste water recommendations for Ebola patients. In discussing with the jurisdiction's hospitals, the feedback is that these recommendations will be difficult to implement and uncertainty about the utility. What about waste water from sinks or showers? Treating waste creates environmental concerns within the patient room. The recommendations for the toilet waste are OK but other measures create a risk.

Answer: CDPH will take these concerns to CASA for consideration. These recommendations will change as information evolves and CASA receives feedback from healthcare facilities.

Additional questions can be submitted to Jeocuser43@cdph.ca.gov

Number of attendees on the call: 187