



**Weekly Local Health Department Ebola Update Call
California Department of Public Health
Wednesday, November 19, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes**

International, National and California Update on Ebola

On November 17, 2014, Mali was added to the countries impacted by Ebola. CDC has added travelers from Mali to the list of passengers to be screened at U.S. airports. Travelers from Mali should now also be included in risk assessments and monitored under California's quarantine order. A doctor who was treating Ebola patients in Liberia died in the U.S. on Monday, November 17, 2014.

- There are presently no active cases of Ebola Virus Disease in the U.S. or California. California is currently monitoring thirty-five returning travelers who reside in twelve local jurisdictions. Two of those travelers are in the "some risk" category. The remaining thirty-three are in the "low risk" category. Sixty-six individuals have been monitored for Ebola in California since monitoring protocols were instituted in October, 2014. Thirty-one travelers have completed the monitoring program and thirty-five are still being monitored.
- CDPH has released two new guidance documents: "Ebola Preparedness and Response for Outpatient and Ambulatory Care Settings" and "Planning for and Management of Travelers and U.S. Ebola Contacts". These documents can be found at <http://cdph.ca.gov/programs/cder/Pages/Ebola.aspx>
- On November 13, 2014, CDPH held meetings with CCLHO, CHEAC and representatives of the five U.C. hospitals that may receive Ebola patients in California concerning operational aspects of providing Ebola care. Follow up meetings will be convened with each of the five U.C. hospitals and local health jurisdictions where they reside.

Cal/OSHA (Juliann Sum)

On November 14, 2014 Cal/OSHA released the "Interim Guidance on Ebola Virus in Inpatient Hospital Settings". The guidance includes discussions on the California Airborne Transmissible Diseases Standard, the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, the requirement for facility Exposure Control Plans with employee input, personal protective equipment (PPE), and Hospital Employee Training. The plan encourages interaction with local health officers and hospital staff in plan development and emphasizes that planning, training, and drilling is needed to prepare.

American Red Cross (ARC)

The Red Cross is available to assist with and can help feed families who are quarantined, provide disaster mental health services and provide other assistance as needs are identified. The Red Cross is a convener in the community and is partnered with many agencies that will assist us in helping an individual or family who is quarantined. Local health departments are encouraged to contact the Red Cross District Office, in the same way you reach out to them in other disaster situations to discuss what the needs may be, the best way to meet those needs, and to collaborate to ensure those needs are met.



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Interim Guidance on Ebola and Companion Animals

On November 10, 2014 a national working group released two guidance documents on companion animals, posted on the CDC website. The documents highlight that:

- Dogs who have been exposed to Ebola have been shown not to be infected
- There is no evidence non-mammals (birds, fish, etc.) can be infected with Ebola
- There have been no known case of Ebola in dogs or cats
- Monkeys, apes, and pigs have shown higher risk of acquiring Ebola

Question and Answer Session:

Question:

Is airborne infection isolation (All) required if PAPRs are worn during treatment of an Ebola patient?

Answer: CDPH recommends All but it is not absolutely required. Cal/OSHA does not categorically require All but does require that hospitals coordinate care with the local health officer.

Question:

Are surgical masks acceptable respiratory protection for ambulatory care settings rather than N-95 respirators?

Answer: CDC guidance states a surgical mask and face shield are acceptable in ambulatory settings. Cal OSHA is developing a guidance document related to ambulatory care settings and would anticipate using a higher level of PPE for suspected or confirmed Ebola patients in ambulatory settings which would include an N-95 respirator.

Question:

CDC guidance references a specific number of gloves in training for donning and doffing PPE. When will updated PPE training be available?

Answer: Unknown if/when CDC will update the training on PPE for Ebola. Screening patients is considered a best practice for protecting health care workers during interaction with suspected Ebola patients in the ambulatory setting.

Question:

Will Red Cross provide housing for individuals displaced due to Ebola quarantines?

Answer: Yes, Red Cross will assist the LHD in provision of housing for individuals and families in isolation and/or quarantine, collaboration with other local volunteer agencies in the community. Contact your Red Cross district office for services and assistance available.



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Question:

How will Cal/OSHA's pending guidance on ambulatory care settings address PPE supply issues?

Answer: Cal OSHA will work with CDPH to evaluate distancing and supply chain issues.

Question:

What is the meaning of "interim" in the Cal/OSHA guidance?

Answer: "Interim" implies that the guidance is based on existing information but that the guidance may be modified based on changes to information in the future.

Question:

What does "near a patient" mean in the Cal/OSHA interim guidance?

Answer: "Near" is defined as observing, moving, or working in a patient's room.

Question:

Where should questions related to the guidance be directed to?

Answer: Jeocuser43@cdph.ca.gov

Question:

Is a Cal/OSHA guidance being developed for PPE for pre-hospital providers?

Answer: Yes, guidance is being developed.

Question:

Will the Cal/OSHA guidance require the use of PAPR's by pre-hospital providers?

Answer: No, the ATD standard allows an exception for pre-hospital providers, alternatives include a N-100 respirator.

Question:

Will scheduled discussions with the U.C. hospitals include hospitals within their catchment areas?

Answer: Currently scheduled meetings will include only the local health officers of the jurisdiction where the U.C. hospital resides. Future discussions will include health officers from the catchment area for each U.C hospital.

Question:

There are ethical concerns about the CDPH outpatient and ambulatory guidance recommendation that providers not enter an isolation room where a suspected patient resides, deferring until pre-hospital providers arrive.

Answer: Cal OSHA will work with CDPH to further delineate how this situation should be addressed.



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Question:

How should EMS transport issues for Ebola patients be addressed in rural areas?

Answer: Coordination of transport for suspected Ebola patients is coordinated through the Local Emergency Services Agency (LEMSA). There is no national standard for this, but almost all areas of California have designated ambulance units and response teams for transport of these patients.