

South Carolina Ebola Preparedness Statewide Conference Call
November 20, 2014, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm
DHEC Mills-Jarrett Building

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dr. Foster opened the call and informed everyone the weekly statewide Ebola conference call will go to monthly with the next call being December 18th. If anything changes from a national or state standpoint, we will let you know.

Phyllis Beasley, Office of Public Health Preparedness, reminded everyone if you have any questions that are not answered or any you want answered on the next call, submit them to ebola@dhec.sc.gov. All recent and current Ebola guidance is posted on the DHEC website which is www.scdhec.gov.

For health care entities that need assistance with patient concerns, please contact your local Regional Epidemiology office at one of the following:

- Lowcountry Region – 843-441-1091
- Midlands Region – 888-801-1046
- Pee Dee Region – 843-915-8845
- Upstate – 866-298-4442

II. UPDATES:

CDC - Dr. Olabisi Badmus, Medical Consultant, Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology:

● **Global Update**

- As of Nov 16th, there have been a reported total of over 15, 100 (15,113) cases with over 5400 (5407) deaths in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- According to the WHO (World Health Organization), transmission remains intense in these three countries.
- A total of 6 cases (5 confirmed 1 probable), including 5 deaths (4 confirmed 1 probable) have now been reported in Mali, these cases are linked to imported cases from the bordering country Guinea.
- As a result, the CDC has issued a Level 2 travel notice for travelers to Mali, citizens should practice enhanced precautions when traveling to this region. Mali has also been added to the list of countries for which enhanced screening and monitoring measures will be implemented.
- As of Nov 19th, the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) reached 41 days since the last case tested negative for Ebola. Once the 42nd day has passed the DRC will be considered to be Ebola free and will no longer be a considered a country of travel concern. Of note, this outbreak is unrelated to the West African outbreak.

- **National Update in the U.S**
 - One healthcare worker, was transported from Sierra Leone to Nebraska Medical Center on Nov 15th, the patient was reported to have been in very critical condition when he arrived to the Medical center passed away on November 17th.
 - The United States is currently Ebola free.
- **South Carolina**
 - In S.C, we are currently monitoring **eight** international travelers. This number is subject to change daily based on the number of travelers entering the state, leaving the state, or completing the 21 day monitoring period.

Guidance Updates

- DHEC guidance is now available for PPE and Law Enforcement. This guidance includes step-by-step instructions for putting on and removing PPE as well as links to video demonstrations and resources from the CDC. The information was distributed through the Health Preparedness Network and is currently available on the DHEC website.
- Recent postings to the DHEC website from the CDC include:
 - “How to Talk with your Children about Ebola” - this helps address questions from children and provides advice on how to ease concerns or anxiety and
 - “Top 10 Things to Know About Ebola” - a brochure addressing common concerns related to the transmission of Ebola.

Both of these resources are available on both the DHEC and CDC website.
- The CDC has also released guidance has to health providers for the Best Practices for Procuring Equipment for Ebola Response. To highlight some important points from:
 - The CDC recommends the use of either a PAPR or an N95 respirator. Therefore, if a PAPR is not immediately available, a single-use N95 respirator in combination with single-use (disposable) surgical hood extending to the shoulders and a single use (disposable) full face shield can also be worn.
 - CDC recommends use of either a fluid-resistant or impermeable coverall or a fluid-resistant or impermeable gown. Therefore, if a coverall is not immediately available, a single-use, fluid-resistant or impermeable gown that extends to at least mid-calf in combination with single-use impermeable boot covers that extend at least mid-calf can be worn.
 - HHS is also working with distributors and manufacturers to understand various ways customers may be able to find supplies. Some suggested options that may assist in obtaining PPE include:
 - Developing sharing plans with other local hospitals and within healthcare coalitions.
 - Working with distributors to substitute brands, timelines, and alternative products that may be in stock to substitute requests.

- Although some manufacturers are reporting that they are increasing production of PPE, some products may be available in lower quantities or with a longer delivery.

III. Update from SC Hospital Association – Dr. Rick Foster, Senior VP for Quality and Patient Safety

- Continue working with the four regional treatment centers. Commend them for what they have done. They continue to train team members and have expanded to include obstetricians, neonatologists and pediatric intensivists. They are also adding additional equipment and will be able to respond for other emerging infectious diseases.
- They are further refining the regional system. If patients develop Ebola symptoms, they would coordinate transport with the regional treatment centers.
- Outlying hospitals should coordinate with regional epidemiology staff if transport is necessary.
- Reminded everyone it is important to be on HAN (Health Alert Network).

IV. ADDITIONAL UPDATES SINCE LAST CONFERENCE CALL

DHEC EMS – Robert Wronski, Director, Division of EMS and Trauma

"The Protocol for EMS Ebola Response" was completed and sent out to all responders via the Health Providers Network (HPN). This Protocol was developed with the assistance of DHEC Staff, the EMS Advisory Council, and the State Medical Control Committee. This protocol is NOT mandatory for use and may be used as a guide as you develop your own protocols, or may be used as a stand-alone document if you so choose."

DHEC Office of Public Health Preparedness - Ron Griffin, Interim Director

PPE training collaboration with DHEC, the South Carolina National Guard, the SCHA, and Palmetto Richland Hospital for regional PPE training in Modules for different scopes of care. Advised to use the Ebola email to request PPE training.

Annex 8 Ebola Response Plan, finishing it up through ESF-8 partners now, and hope to have it published during the first two weeks in December.

V. Questions from callers

1. From a funeral home in Lancaster – will we be included in equipment training?
Per Ron Griffin - Advised that we could, and would try to get more partners in his area. Advised to use the Ebola email to request PPE training.
2. Charleston County Sheriff's Office – Who is responsible for removing items from a suspected infected person's house? Is there reimbursement for clean-up?
Per Susan Jenkins – don't have a precise answer and will follow-up on this. For additional information see DHEC's Ebola website for a list of contractors who can perform cleanup and a list of transporters who can transport hazardous waste. Will have to follow-up on this and will address on next call. If an answer is needed before then, send question to ebola@dhec.sc.gov.

3. Question from a county dispatch – Should Mali be included on list of countries that should be included in the travel history screening?

Per Dr. Badmus - Yes, Mali has been added to the list of countries that should be included in the travel history screening. As the status of the outbreak continues to evolve it is important to continue to monitor for the list of affected countries on the CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/distribution-map.html>)

4. Question from New Horizon Family Health Center – do patients who have traveled to Texas need to be screened?

Per Dr. Badmus - Screening for travel within the United States is not indicated.

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Dr. Foster thanked everyone who has planned for regional and statewide Ebola response system and to remain diligent about following guidelines. Still need to continue preparedness at the local level. We will continue working on training and the Ebola email address will remain active.

11/24/14 - DM