



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

MEMORANDUM

TO: EMS Directors

FROM: Rob Wronski, Director, Division of EMS and Trauma

Re: Dispatcher Screening for Ebola virus patients

DHEC has received questions from EMS providers regarding the protocol for PPE for EMS providers in advance of transporting patients that meet the CDC screening criteria.

Attached to this memo is information from the October 1, 2014, CDC "Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for Management of Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Virus Disease in the United States. The link for this information on the CDC website is: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-emergency-medical-services-systems-911-public-safety-answering-points-management-patients-known-suspected-united-states.html>

Also attached to this memo is the excerpted "Recommendations for 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points PSAPs."

During a DHEC conference call on the Ebola virus update, the concern was expressed by EMS personnel that there is a chance that they may respond to a call that is a potential Ebola virus patient and that they would not be protected by appropriate PPE.

In response to this concern, we are asking that you 1) ensure that your personnel are provided the latest information on the virus definitions (link included in attached document) and the proper PPE for the transport of possible Ebola virus patients; and 2) that you share the information regarding dispatcher screening for Ebola virus patients.

For the safety of EMS personnel, it will be critical that potentially infected patients receive an initial screening by dispatchers so that the EMS personnel can don proper PPE before coming into contact with the patient. Please provide this information to your local dispatchers and work with them to implement the screening questions. Your medical control physician can work with you and your local dispatcher if you wish to implement these precautions.

If you have any questions about these recommendations, please contact Phyllis Beasley at 803-898-4557, or email me at beaslepa@dhec.sc.gov.