

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dispatch Centers and EMS Services
DATE: October 16, 2014
RE: PSAP Ebola virus caller queries

In order to protect the public health, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control recommends all Dispatch Centers and EMS Service screen callers use the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) questions for symptoms and risk factors for Ebola virus. Although no confirmed case of Ebola infection has occurred in our state as of this date, the modes of transmission of the virus and concerns of the public and health care providers regarding potential exposures require that the Department issue this recommendation in accordance with CDC guidance.

It will be important for PSAPs to question callers and determine if anyone at the incident possibly has Ebola virus. This should be communicated immediately to EMS personnel before arrival and to assign the appropriate EMS resources. PSAPs should review existing medical dispatch procedures and coordinate any changes with their EMS medical director and with their local public health department.

If you have any questions please submit them using the Ebola@dhec.sc.gov address.