
From: HPNAdmin

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 4:01 PM

To: PROVIDER@LISTS.CIO.SC.GOV; RESPONDER@LISTS.CIO.SC.GOV; DECEASED@LISTS.CIO.SC.GOV;
SCHOOL@LISTS.CIO.SC.GOV

Subject: Information on Ebola Emails

If you are receiving this email, you have no doubt received other Ebola-related emails from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. A few persons have inquired regarding their inclusion in this email distribution list and how much longer the emails may continue. In an effort to be responsive in matters of public health, the Department would like to reply to these queries.

The Ebola epidemic in West Africa has been going on for nine months. More than 15,000 people in eight countries have contracted the disease, and nearly 5,500 have died. International efforts to contain the outbreak are ongoing; however, transmission is still reported to be widespread in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in addition to a cluster of cases in Mali according to the most recent situation report from the World Health Organization. So long as the epidemic rages in West Africa, there is a potential threat of Ebola to persons in South Carolina, and the Department must be ready to respond.

On October 15, 2014, the Department issued a Public Health Order, creating the Health Preparedness Network. The HPN is an email system designed to enhance the Department's ability to maintain open and active communications with essential individuals and facilities throughout the State. These individuals and facilities include medical care providers, first responders, and funeral directors, among others. Through the HPN, the Department has the ability to share critical and up-to-date information regarding Ebola to thousands of people at a moment's notice and to coordinate responsive efforts should an Ebola-infected person arrive in our State. You are receiving these Ebola-related emails because you and/or your facility are vital to these responsive efforts and, therefore, are subscribed to the HPN.

The Department recognizes that no one wants to receive more emails than are absolutely necessary. However, history shows that coordination, cooperation and diligence are the keys to containing the Ebola virus. An example of the successful containment of the Ebola virus during the West African outbreak was demonstrated in Nigeria where they were able to rapidly respond and implement control measures to prevent widespread transmission. This success was attributed to efficient coordination and communication between international partners, governmental agencies, and organizational partners. In order to maintain and enhance preparedness efforts, the Department will continue to share all critical information regarding the Ebola virus through the HPN for as long as necessary. We appreciate your diligence and patience in the coordination of these efforts.

Should you have any questions regarding the HPN, please submit your questions to Ebola@dhec.sc.gov. If you are a licensed healthcare provider, you may also contact your licensing board, which provided your email address for inclusion in the HPN.

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy Thanksgiving,

The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control