

South Carolina Ebola Preparedness Statewide Conference Call  
November 6, 2014, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
DHEC Mills-Jarrett Building

**I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Phyllis Beasley, Office of Public Health Preparedness, opened the call by reiterating the following:

- All recent and current Ebola guidance is posted on the DHEC website which is [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov).
- If you have specific questions for the next conference call, please send them to [ebola@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:ebola@dhec.sc.gov).
- For health care entities who need assistance with screening by DHEC, please contact your local Regional Epidemiology office at one of the following:
  - o Lowcountry Region – 843-441-1091
  - o Midlands Region – 888-801-1046
  - o Pee Dee Region – 843-915-8845
  - o Upstate – 866-298-4442

**II. UPDATES:**

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

- Response to question regarding PPE shortage:
  - o PPE shortage is a state and national concern that the CDC and ASPR (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response) are aware of and working on solutions. They have acknowledged that there are some spot shortages of PPE and are working on solutions for this issue.
  - o As the situation is being addressed, the CDC has advised:
    - “If facilities elect to use different PPE from what is outlined the PPE recommendations (e.g., coveralls with either an integrated hood or a surgical hood or a surgical hood with integrated full face shield), they must train healthcare workers in this use and ensure that donning and doffing procedures are adjusted and practiced accordingly.”
  - o Additionally, for healthcare workers in the outpatient setting, we recommend facilities to use the highest supply available to you. For a suspected patient who is stable and without any signs or symptoms such as vomiting, bleeding, copious diarrhea, or requiring invasive procedures, healthcare workers at minimum in this setting should wear: 1) face shield, 2) surgical face mask, 3) impermeable gown and 4) two pairs of gloves.

**III. Update from SC Hospital Association – Jim Walker**

- Continuing to have calls with the four Regional Treatment Centers prepared to work with all entities.
- Continuing to work on terms people are using such as “PUI” and “confirmed.”

- Hospital designations for Regional Treatment Centers, referral hospitals in the outlying areas and ambulatory care centers.
- Staff at the Regional Treatment Centers are receiving simulation training. If anyone else would like to receive simulation training, please send an email to the Ebola questions website.
- Continuing to work with DHEC on transport protocol.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL UPDATES SINCE LAST CONFERENCE CALL**

##### **DHEC Office of Public Health Preparedness – Ron Griffin, Preparedness Consultant**

- Thanked the healthcare coalition, partners and response partners and all others for participating in the tabletop exercises. There were a lot of questions and answers and recommendations during the exercise.
- We are in the process of planning smaller local exercises throughout the state. If anyone would like to host an exercise, please let us know through your Region Public Health Preparedness Director or send an email to [ebola@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:ebola@dhec.sc.gov).
- Meeting at EMD yesterday with ESF-8 partners for the development and revision of Annex 8, Ebola Preparation and Response Plan. This Plan is undergoing review by the many ESF partners and should be completed in the next couple weeks.

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

- Question regarding can an Ebola patient be transported across state lines?  
Final Recommendation: For potential Ebola patients and persons under investigation residing or located near adjoining states' borders: When the determination has been made that the patient should be referred to a Regional Treatment Center for testing/treatment, arrangements should be made to refer the patient to the closest SC Regional Treatment Center rather than transferring them across state lines.

##### **DHEC Chief Counsel for Public Health – Cheryl Bullard**

- Response to question from a public safety caller: What is the process for a public health order for quarantine? When is it issued? Who enforces it?  
DHEC has legal authority to issue a Public Health Order for Quarantine. These Orders are issued:
  - By DHEC at the earliest notification of a possible or known risk to an individual or to the public health;
  - To persons or groups of persons who have or may have been exposed to a contagious disease;
  - When the subject(s) of the Order is not sick, and does not have symptoms of the disease;
  - Imposing the least restrictive measures possible, usually requiring monitoring for symptoms in persons believed to be exposed;

- For the period of time the individual may be at risk (incubation period if the index person is confirmed to be contagious, or once the index person is determined not to be infected with the disease), and will be released from quarantine when the risk is no longer present;
- For either voluntary or involuntary quarantine.

State law provides that state and local law enforcement officers shall aid and assist DHEC to enforce and carry out any and all restrictive measures.

**V. QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE:**

1. Question from a funeral home regarding transporting a deceased patient across state lines?  
Will have a subject matter expert address this and have an answer on the next conference call.
2. From a funeral home: What is involved with hosting a tabletop exercise?  
Per Ron, if you are interested in hosting an exercise, send an email to the Ebola website letting us know you're interested. Phyllis also encouraged funeral homes to be part of the Region Healthcare Coalition. If you would like to receive an invitation to be part of your Region Healthcare Coalition, send an email to the Ebola website stating where you're located and she will send the appropriate contact information.
3. Quarantine order – where does it go?  
Per Cheryl Bullard – DHEC has the authority to issue quarantine orders to individuals who are not sick (do not have symptoms) but may have been in the Ebola-affected regions or may have been exposed to an individual with Ebola. DHEC delivers the order directly to the subject of the order and maintains daily contact to actively monitor for symptoms.
4. Any current recommendations to screen new students enrolling in school?  
Per Dr. Badmus – Updated guidance for schools will be released for Ebola screening. There is also helpful information from the CDC for parents, teachers, and pediatric healthcare providers. DHEC is notified about international travelers coming to SC from the affected countries and are responsible for the monitoring of these travelers, so we should already be aware of any travelers. However, schools may screen new students for travel history and we ask that schools notify DHEC if they become aware of any students or faculty that have or will be traveling to these regions. (\*\*Note: The updated school guidance was released following the call on 11/6/14).
5. Options for local practices for highly suspect patient who may have falsified information.  
Does local facility have any option for keeping patient? What about for a recalcitrant person?  
Per Cheryl Bullard - If the patient is symptomatic and meets the criteria CDC has established, the facility should immediately isolate the person and notify DHEC. We will issue an isolation order to prevent the person from leaving against medical advice. We will also notify law enforcement of the isolation order and request assistance with enforcing quarantine.

6. Any update on seven cases mentioned last week?  
Per Dr. Badmus - There are currently 11 international travelers being monitored, those 7 travelers are a part of the total of 11 being monitored. For clarification, there are no cases of Ebola in SC, these are international travelers from the Ebola affected regions that are being monitored.
7. Question regarding school nurses experience in donning and doffing. Hands-on experience would be nice. Do we know of any agencies willing to do training?  
Per Dr. Badmus – there is a video at [www.gnyha.org/ebolatraining](http://www.gnyha.org/ebolatraining). The link is on DHEC's Ebola website. Dr. Foster said if anyone is interested in the mobile simulation lab, send an email to the Ebola questions website requesting this.
8. If DHEC issues an Order and local law enforcement goes out, can we depend on DHEC for donning and doffing? It's not something we generally practice.  
Per Ron Griffin, each case is situational dependent on PPE needed. Touch base with your local fire department, EMS and/or hospital. DHEC's Epidemiology Division will let you know what is needed. In addition, per Dr. Linda Bell, there are instances when PPE is indicated and referring to the training videos for donning and doffing would be helpful to view to see how not to contaminate.
9. Is there updated guidance for school districts?  
Per Dr. Badmus – Updated guidance for schools will be released for Ebola screening. DHEC is notified about international travelers coming to SC from the affected countries and are responsible for the monitoring of these travelers, so we should already be aware of any travelers. We ask that schools notify DHEC if they become aware of any students or faculty that have or will be traveling to these regions.  
(\*\*\*Note: The updated school guidance was released following the call on 11/6/14).
10. What is involved with the eleven people currently enrolled in monitoring?  
The details of the CDC traveler monitoring and movement guidance are available through the DHEC and CDC website (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/exposure/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>).
11. Is there a standard for draping the interior of an ambulance for inter-facility transports?  
Per Rob Wronski – There is no DHEC or CDC standard for the interior draping of an ambulance. Each EMS agency that is transporting patients has their own draping procedures in place, if needed. For the inter-facility transport teams to the regional treatment hospitals, each team does have an interior draping protocol, but each is slightly different due to the types of ambulances being utilized.
12. Protocol for mental health providers?  
Mental health providers should follow the same guidance provided by the CDC for healthcare providers in the hospital or ambulatory setting.
13. Question from an occupational therapy nurse – what is the website that shows the countries with cases of Ebola?  
Per Phyllis, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
14. Where can we locate the video for donning and doffing?  
<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/HealthAlertsNotifications/ebola/>

**CLOSING COMMENTS:**

The following reminders were provided by Phyllis:

- If you are a healthcare provider and have Ebola questions, call your Regional Epidemiology office. The phone numbers are:
  - o Lowcountry Region – 843-441-1091
  - o Midlands Region – 888-801-1046
  - o Pee Dee Region – 843-915-8845
  - o Upstate – 866-298-4442
- If you have questions that were not addressed during this conference call, send them to [ebola@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:ebola@dhec.sc.gov).
- For general information about Ebola, go to DHEC's website which is: [www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov) and click on the box "DHEC Guidance – Facts about Ebola."

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