



NORTHWEST HEALTHCARE Response Network

NORTHWEST HEALTHCARE RESPONSE NETWORK

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER - SNAPSHOT REPORT #1

DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2014

TIME: 1700

SITUATION UPDATE

To date there have been three confirmed Ebola cases in the United States (1 travel associated and 2 healthcare workers). Northwest Healthcare Response Network in coordination with Public Health – Seattle & King County, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and the Washington State Department of Health are actively monitoring for situational awareness concerning Ebola.

CURRENT INFORMATION

The Northwest Healthcare Response Network (The Network) has activated its Healthcare Emergency Coordination Center (HECC) at a low level to support coordination and information sharing in support of Ebola planning.

The Network is working closely with healthcare providers and the health departments in King and Pierce Counties to ensure the region is prepared for an Ebola event. The HECC objectives are to:

1. Assist the healthcare community in maintaining situational awareness regarding current events and incidents, with an emphasis on Ebola.
2. Support healthcare preparedness in Pierce and King Counties.
3. Address healthcare policy issues that arise as a part of Ebola planning and response coordination.
4. Monitor availability of PPE and assist healthcare providers with resupply if necessary.
5. As needed, assist healthcare providers with media inquiries and public messaging concerns through coordination with the local health departments.

KEY ACTIONS BY NORTHWEST HEALTHCARE RESPONSE NETWORK

- Convened Disaster Clinical Advisory Committee to discuss about clinical value for and administrative challenges of identifying regional care centers for Ebola among the hospitals.
- Activated Multi-Agency Coordination system via HECC to assist with cross-county planning with King and Pierce Counties.
- Monitoring availability of personal protective equipment and any supply chain issues.
- Participating in regional discussions concerning healthcare preparedness for Ebola patients.
- Actively monitoring situational awareness for any regional concerns.
- Monitoring status of healthcare facilities regarding Ebola preparedness activities.

KEY ACTIONS BY OTHER REGIONAL AGENCIES

- Regional healthcare systems are conducting internal drills to practice the use of personal protective equipment and caring for a patient with suspected Ebola. Hospitals and clinics are implementing screening and triage criteria and protocol for suspected Ebola patients.
- Public Health – Seattle & King County and Tacoma – Pierce County Health Departments are coordinating local media and news inquiries concerning Ebola preparedness activities.
- King County EMS has released EMS guidance for Responding to Ebola Virus Disease.
- Public Health - Seattle & King County has released an Ebola key messages document to assist organizations in developing public messages.

CURRENT NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- President Obama has named former White House advisor Rob Klain to coordinate U.S. efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak.
- The World Health Organization has officially declared Senegal free of Ebola transmission as of October 17, 2014.
- Per CDC/HHS conference call on October 20, 2014, there are 20 hospitals nationwide in urban areas near airports that are willing to be Ebola inpatient receiving facilities.
- The CDC has expanded disaster response teams for Ebola (FAST teams).
- Per CDC/HHS conference call on October 20, 2014, CDC guidelines on personal protective equipment are expected to be released tomorrow, October 21, 2014.

POLICY DECISIONS

- The Network has activated the Healthcare Emergency Coordination Center at a low level to support coordination and information sharing in support of Ebola planning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For further information on these meetings and events please contact The Network directly at info@nwhrn.org

- October 23, 2014: The NWHRN Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee will be meeting to discuss hospital preparedness for Ebola as a part of normal monthly meeting schedule.

**** THE HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER DUTY OFFICER
IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY AT (425) 988-2898****

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