



## **HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER - SNAPSHOT REPORT #2**

**DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2014**

**TIME: 1700**

### **SITUATION UPDATE**

To date there have been three confirmed Ebola Virus Disease cases in the United States (1 travel associated and 2 healthcare workers). There are currently no suspected or actual cases of Ebola in WA State. Northwest Healthcare Response Network, in coordination with Public Health – Seattle & King County, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and the Washington State Department of Health, is actively monitoring for situational awareness concerning Ebola. Countries still being affected by EVD can be found on the CDC website.

### **CURRENT INFORMATION**

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

The Network's HECC objectives are to:

1. Assist the healthcare community in maintaining situational awareness regarding current events and incidents related to EVD.
2. Support healthcare preparedness in Pierce and King Counties.
3. Address healthcare policy issues as a part of EVD planning and response coordination.
4. Monitor resource needs including availability of personal protective equipment 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 (DCAC) on 10/20/14 to discuss clinical value for and administrative challenges of identifying regional care centers for Ebola among the hospitals. Further discussion with local health departments and local hospital systems in progress.
- Monitoring reports of backorders and delays on for some types of PPE
- Monitoring status of healthcare facilities regarding Ebola preparedness activities.
- Participating in regional and national discussions concerning healthcare preparedness for EVD patients

### **KEY ACTIONS BY OTHER REGIONAL OR STATE AGENCIES**

- WA State Dept. of Health is creating an EVD-specific web page for healthcare providers and preparing PPE training for healthcare workers.
- WA State Dept. of Health is also establishing contracts with biohazard cleaning vendors for waste management.
- King County EMS is creating PPE safety training videos for EMS providers.

- King County EMS has released EMS guidance for Responding to EVD.
- Healthcare facilities are identifying in-patient treatment areas.
- Public Health – Seattle & King County and Tacoma – Pierce County Health Departments are coordinating local media and news inquiries.
- Public Health – Seattle & King County has released an Ebola key messages document to assist organizations in developing public messages.
- Public Health – Seattle & King County has released a Health Advisory: Ebola Prevention Guidance for Dental Offices.
- Regional healthcare systems are conducting internal drills to practice the use of personal protective equipment and safely caring for a patient with suspected EVD. Hospitals and clinics are implementing screening, triage criteria and protocols for appropriately providing care for suspected EVD patients.

#### **CURRENT NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**

- CDC collaborated with staff and representatives from the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) to develop Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services Systems and 911 Call Centers.
- The CDC has released updated guidance on personal protective equipment for the management of patients with Ebola. The full guidelines can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>
- The CDC has released a fact sheet on tightening guidance for healthcare workers on personal protective equipment for Ebola. The full guidelines can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/fs1020-ebola-personal-protective-equipment.html>
- The CDC has released fact sheets warning about chlorine poisoning due to drinking of products containing chlorine due to rumors that drinking chlorine can cure or prevent Ebola.
- The CDC is planning to expand disaster response teams for Ebola (FAST teams).
- The Department of Defense is creating a 30-person expeditionary medical support team that could provide short-notice assistance to civilian medical professionals in the U.S.
- Nigeria has been declared free of Ebola virus transmission.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*For further information on these meetings and events please contact The Network directly at [info@nwhrn.org](mailto:info@nwhrn.org)*

- Wednesday, Oct 22 at 12 noon pacific ASPR and CDC are hosting a conference call: Preparedness for Emergency Medical Services to discuss the document “Detailed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Checklist for Ebola Preparedness”. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ems-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf> (Call in number: 888-325-0345, URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/> Conference number: PW-9051596 Audience passcode: 1552858)
- October 23, 2014: The NWHRN Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee will meet to discuss hospital preparedness for Ebola as a part of the normal monthly meeting schedule.