

Snapshot Report #15

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTER

DATE: November 7, 2014

TIME: 1600

SITUATION UPDATE

Washington State Dept. of Health in conjunction with local health jurisdictions continues to monitor seven individuals throughout the state based on Ebola Virus Disease screening criteria.

KEY ACTIONS BY NORTHWEST HEALTHCARE RESPONSE NETWORK

- The Network convened a conference call with hospitals continuing advanced planning for Ebola to discuss currently plan strategies and gaps.
- The Network is following up on identified gaps based on hospital and health system responses to a survey completed last week assessing Ebola-ready capabilities.
- The Network is assisting Public Health - Seattle & King County with drafting a process for coordinating the referral of a possible Ebola patient to a hospital.
- The Network participated in the ASPR National Call with Healthcare Coalitions on Ebola Preparedness and Response today, Nov. 7th. Key highlights from the call include:
 - ASPR officials discussed how critical healthcare coalitions are to helping coordinate EVD planning and response activates for healthcare facilities nationwide.
 - Coalitions play an important role identifying EVD planning challenges and finding solutions to those challenges including PPE sharing, training and exercising.
 - ASPR is investigating creating a national contract for EMS inter-facility transport of suspected or identified EVD patients. While still in the early phases, ASPR envisions a contract where an individual provider or consortium would be available within approx. 2 hours of notification to transport a patient from an initial screening facility to a designated EVD receiving center.

KEY ACTIONS BY OTHER REGIONAL OR STATE AGENCIES

- WA State Department of Health (DOH) created a webinar on screening and isolating patients suspected of Ebola. Webinars are scheduled for Friday 11/7/14 and Tuesday 11/11/14.
- DOH will report on a weekly bases on all CDC definitions of “direct active” and “active” monitored patients to the CDC.

CURRENT NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- The final person being monitored in Texas has cleared the 21-day follow-up period: <http://abcnews.go.com/health/person-completes-ebola-monitoring-texas/story?id=26742640>
- The U.S. Army Public Health Department created guidance for Terminal Cleaning for Ebola Virus Disease patients: http://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/TIP_13-034-1114_Terminal_Cleaning_of_EVD_Patient_Care_Areas.pdf

- The Congressional Research Service published on Nov. 4 a CRS Insights paper on ‘Treating Ebola Patients in the United States: Health Care Delivery Implications’. The paper discusses challenges healthcare facilities face preparing for and treating suspected and confirmed EVD patients including staffing, facility and unit closures and resource usages. The paper also briefly examines policy considerations to mitigate these challenges and specific steps federal agencies can take to assist and support Ebola readiness capabilities: <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/IN10173.pdf>.
- Reuters: Tekmira to produce Ebola treatment for U.S. Dept of Defense <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/07/us-health-ebola-tekmira-idUSKBN0IQ2GI20141107>. The Dept. of Defense has ordered 500 courses of Canadian Tekmira Pharmaceuticals Corp’s experimental EVD treatment for Ebola. The treatment targets the Ebola-Guinea virus variant and works by preventing the virus from replicating. Supplies of TKM-Ebola-Guinea will be available in early December, with plans to use it for clinical studies in West Africa.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) released new guidelines on “safe and dignified burial of a patient who has died from suspected or confirmed Ebola virus disease”: <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/safe-burial-protocol/en/>
- The WHO announced approval of a second Ebola vaccine trial in Switzerland: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2014/second-ebola-vaccine/en/>
- BloombergView (op-ed): Next Ebola Challenge: Spending the Money: <http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2014-11-06/next-ebola-challenge-spending-the-money>. Discusses that appropriating funds to boost West African health initiatives is only one of the challenges in supporting regional healthcare efforts. From 2009 through 2013, Congress appropriated \$243 million for health-related spending in Liberia, the bulk of it through USAID. Yet the U.S. spent only 63 percent of the funding over that same period. Preventing the next outbreak of Ebola means building functioning health-care systems in Liberia, as well as Guinea and Sierra Leone. That almost certainly means spending more money than foreign donors have been willing to turn over so far -- and spending it on the types of primary-care initiatives where disbursements have lagged appropriations by the greatest amount.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 2pm EST, U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee will hold a full Committee hearing on the ‘U.S. Government response to the Ebola outbreak’. Witnesses include the secretaries of HHS and DHS; CDC director and director of NIH’s Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; and senior Defense Dept. officials: <http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/chairwoman-mikulski-announces-full-committee-hearing-us-government-response-ebola-outbreak>.
- Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 12pm PT, the Northwest Center for Public Health Practice at the University of Washington hosts a webinar on ‘Ebola Preparedness in Washington State’ as part of its Hot Topics series. State Epidemiologist Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH, will discuss Ebola preparedness efforts in Washington State: <http://www.nwcphp.org/training/opportunities/webinars/ebola-preparedness-in-washington-state>.

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