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| **New York State Department of Health**  **Situation Report #1**  **Incident Name: Ebola** |
| **Date: October 2nd, 2014**  **Operational Period: 10/1/2014 1200 HRS to 10/2/2014 1200HRS**  **Prepared By:**  Sarah Roberts  Office of Health Emergency Preparedness  (o) 518.402.8703  (c) 518.858.5903  [sarah.roberts@health.ny.gov](mailto:sarah.roberts@health.ny.gov) |

# Current Situation:

The 2014 Ebola outbreak is the largest in history and the first Ebola epidemic the world has ever known — affecting multiple countries in West Africa. Although the risk of an Ebola outbreak in the United States is very low, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and partners are taking precautions to prevent this from happening. On 9/30/2014, CDC confirmed, the first travel-associated case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the United States. CDC and partners are taking precautions to prevent spread of Ebola within the United States. CDC is working with other U.S. government agencies, the World Health Organization (WHO), and other domestic and international partners and has activated its Emergency Operations Center to help coordinate technical assistance and control activities with partners[[1]](#footnote-1).

Currently there are no known cases in New York State. In efforts to prepare for any possible Ebola related activities and issues, the New York State Department of Heath (NYSDOH) has activated its Incident Management System (IMS).

**Current issues:**

Department subject matter leadership are working with program staff to:

* Clarify existing CDC and other Federal guidance on the disposition of human remains and medical waste;
* Identify current Department assets for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and/or purchasing requirements should local jurisdictions need logistical support;
* Reviewing and updating as necessary Isolation and Quarantine guidance for local jurisdictions.

# Detailed Situation Report:

**Capital District Regional Office -- CDRO**

CDRO staff continues to share CDC and NYSDOH guidance regarding Ebola with Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition members as it becomes available.

**Metropolitan Area Office -- MARO**

Four (4) MARO Hospitals are participating in the ongoing dialogue with tertiary care centers regarding procedures related to accepting patients and BCD has identified appropriate facility contacts. MARO staff continues to sharing guidance and related information with partners to enhance situational awareness as appropriate. Local Health Department (LHD) and hospital issues or concerns are also being monitored and, at present, timely sharing of information has addressed related concerns.

**Admin & Finance**

The Health Operations Center (HOC) is ready for activation if required. Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP) staff are following up with program staff from the Center of Community Health (CCH) to determine what plans are in place to extend or procure the external Call Center contract, set to expire April 2015.

**Center for Community Health (CCH)**

*Staff and Contract Resources -* Staff has advanced a package to appoint a candidate for the Public Health Physician 2 to serve as the Medical Director, Division of Epidemiology. The candidate, once on board, will be instrumental in implementing many of the Ebola planning activities with hospitals.

In addition, existing contracts with IPRO and New York County Health Services Review Organization (NYCHRO) for infection control and communicable disease staff support are being amended to extend the end date and add funding to provide additional staff resources to assist with Ebola planning. Finally, the Department is requesting an informal opinion from the Joint Commission on Public Ethics to allow the Department to retain a former employee was a consultant to assist with Ebola planning activities.

*Management of Medical Waste* – Department staff held a conference call on 10/2/2014 with Fisher Scientific, to explore the feasibility of standing up a State contract for portable autoclaving and/or medical waste incineration and removal that would be deployed at a tertiary care center prepared to accept a patient with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Fisher subcontracts with Steris, which does not have portable autoclaving available, but does have Vaporized Hydrogen Peroxide (VHP) sterilization. Epidemiology staffs are looking into that solution. Separately, staff is going to explore other entities, including Stericycle, which offers on site medical waste sterilization and removal, and purportedly handled the waste at Emory Medical Center for their recent patients with Ebola.

***Division of Epidemiology***

The Division of Epidemiology is conducting weekly meetings for coordination of the Department’s Ebola planning. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday October 7th at 9 AM.

The Division is also coordinating a call for hospitals to continue with preparation for facilities to receive a patient with Ebola, this call is scheduled for Thursday, October 9th from 1-2:30. Bellevue Hospital will discuss the preparations they have put in place and hospitals will be able to discuss their concerns. The following hospitals included are: Albany Medical Center (AMC). Champlain Valley Physician’s Hospital (CVPH), State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate, University of Rochester/Strong, Erie County Medical Center (ECMC), Westchester Medical Center, Stony Brook, North Shore-Long Island Jewish (LIJ) Medical Center, Mount Sinai, Cornell, Columbia Presbyterian, and Bellevue.

**Center for Environment Health (CEH)**

CEH staff is identifying relevant references pertaining to safety and health. CEH staff reviewed CDC PPE requirements and will work with Division of Epidemiology on selection criteria.

**Division of Legal Affairs (DLA)**

Local Isolation and Quarantine guidance from 2005 is being reviewed for any necessary updates. Critical Specimen Transport plan is being reviewed and updated to include instructions to ensure integrity of inner packaging as well as transport of Category A agents[[2]](#footnote-2).

**Informatics**

All necessary Health Commerce System (HCS) applications are on stand-by and HCS is on high availability status. No Health Electronic Response Data System (HERDS) surveys have been sent out at this time, staff is ready to support.

A Virtual Health Operations Center (VHOC) for Ebola has been created.

A Quickr place for Ebola Hospital Workgroup has been created. We are currently developing a page with a link from Important Health Events.

**Office of Health Emergency Preparedness (OHEP)**

***Border Health***

Staff established communication link with CDCs Quarantine Station at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in New York City, and all Eastern Border Health Initiative (EBHI) partners (States of Maine [ME], New Hampshire [NH], Vermont [VT] and NY; and the Canadian Provinces or Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Staff also updated EBHI Communications Directory to ensure contact and information sharing capability.

***Logistics***

Medical Emergency Response Cache (MERC) Logistics staff has developed a list of personal PPE appropriate for Ebola healthcare responders and obtained pricing and availability information from Cardinal Health, the state's prime vendor. This information has been shared with the Ebola workgroup members.

***State Emergency Operations Center (EOC)***

The State EOC is not activated at this time.

***Volunteer Management***

All Local Volunteer Coordinators (LVCs) have been requested to report all unit activities related to Ebola to the State Volunteer Coordinator (SVC).

**Office of Primary Care & Health Systems Management (OPCHSM)**

***Bureau of Emergency Management Services (BEMS)***

BEMS emailed the CDC Ebola pre-planning checklist tool for ambulance services to Regional EMS Councils, Regional EMS Program Agencies, and County EMS Coordinators, State EMS Council, and State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee members. With the currently diagnosed case of Ebola in the U.S., BEMS has also strongly encouraged heightened EMS pre-planning at the local and regional levels and to review agency level PPE procedures.

***Hospital & Acute Care Facilities***

Staff has been in the process of developing initial informational messaging for the hospitals and for the funeral directing industry regarding the handling of the deceased according to CDC guidance. The current CDC guidance indicates that remains: should not be embalmed, as well as to use double body bag/disinfect bags; recommended choices for disposition are cremation or burial in hermetically sealed casket. In addition, staffs are determining which policy/guidance on disposition processes need to be developed as well as any assets that need to be purchased to support local operations.

In addition, staffs are working to anticipate the reaction of funeral director industry and need to develop guidance for questions related to business practices of local funeral directors and whether they will be required to accept cases involving the handling the body and funeral needs of a deceased Ebola patient.

The program is considering requiring hospital drills for proper screening, handling, patients intake, as well as drills related to the issues of handling the deceased patients per the above. Determining how we will monitor facility compliance if we require these drills.

**Public Affairs and Risk Communications**

Public Affairs has received several media inquiries regarding Ebola potential in NYS. Provided response: The New York State Department of Health (DOH) is actively engaged in planning to care for a patient with Ebola in New York State, should the need arise. DOH continues to be in contact with the CDC, LHDs including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, health care facilities and first responders to provide guidance and information on infection control protocols and procedures to ensure the health and safety of health care workers, patients, visitors and the general public. These procedures are a continuation of hospital preparedness efforts to deal with highly contagious infectious diseases that date back to 9/11/2001, including smallpox, Serious Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and more recently Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

Additional information about Ebola, and links to other resources can be found on the Departments website at [http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola/BUTTON](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola/?utm_source=doh&utm_medium=hp-button&utm_campaign=ebola)

**Public Health Practice**

Staff issued the announcement and agenda for the NYSDOH Commissioner’s Call with LHD Commissioners and Public Health Directors on the current Ebola situation tentatively scheduled for Tuesday October 7th from 1 – 2 pm. County emergency managers will also be invited separately to participate in this call.

1. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/agentlist-category.asp#a [↑](#footnote-ref-2)