



# COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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October 8, 2014

**TO:** Chairman Shawn Nelson, Supervisor, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Vice Chair Patricia C. Bates, Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Supervisor Janet Nguyen, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Supervisor John M. W. Moorlach, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Supervisor Todd Spitzer, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

**SUBJECT: Board Information Letter: Ebola Preparedness**

The Health Care Agency is providing the following information about Ebola in light of increased media attention and public concern. There has been only one Ebola case in the United States and none in Orange County. There is no heightened concern about Ebola in Orange County and this is provided to your Honorable Board for informational purposes only.

The Ebola virus, which is transmitted primarily person-to-person by direct contact with a patient's body fluids, causes severe disease and has a current death rate over 50%. Ebola outbreaks have been identified since 1976, but none have exceeded 500 known infected persons. The 2014 Ebola epidemic has been centered in the West African counties of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leon, and Nigeria, As of today 4,461 cases have been reported, of which 2,337 have died. The one case identified in the United States was a traveler from the region who became ill after arriving in Dallas. It was announced this morning that he succumbed to the disease today.

The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the lead national organization providing guidance on the identification and management of Ebola in the United States. Extensive information to health care providers and the public is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>.

Local preparedness activities are occurring in conjunction with the CDC and California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The Health Care Agency is working closely with hospitals, health care providers, cities, and other entities to assure Orange County is well prepared for any public health threat including Ebola. Recent local activities include:

- conference calls with state and federal authorities,
- distributing information to hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and health care providers on CDC screening protocols and management of suspect or actual Ebola patients;

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- surveying hospitals on infection control and readiness;
- establishing contracts for specialty needs such as transport of laboratory specimens;
- reviewing existing protocols and training staff and community partners via full scale and table top exercises;
- meeting with Operational Area management on preparation activities and needs; and
- providing public information via HCA's website and responding to media inquiries.

The attached *Frequently Asked Questions* is being distributed to our community partners and the public. Additional local information about Ebola is available on our website at <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/ebola>.

Please free to contact Eric Handler, MD, MPH, Orange County Health Officer, at (714) 834-3155, or David M. Souleles, MPH, Deputy Agency Director, Public Health Services, at (714) 834-3882 if you have any questions.



Mark A. Refowitz, Director

DS/RS/MAR:mh 14-079

cc: Michael B. Giancola, County Executive Officer  
Mark Denny, Chief Operating Officer

Attachment:  
FAQs on Ebola