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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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October 20, 2014

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

SUBJECT: Board Information Letter: Ebola Preparedness, Update #1

The Health Care Agency (HCA) is providing the following information as follow up to our letter to your Honorable Board on October 8, 2014. There are no cases of Ebola or known contacts to cases in Orange County, but the infection of two health care workers in Dallas has increased public concern. This is provided for informational purposes.

Background

The 2014 West African Ebola outbreak has been centered primarily in the countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. As of October 12th nearly 9,000 Ebola cases have been identified (inclusive of the 4,461 laboratory confirmed cases reported in the October 8th letter); approximately half of which have died. Three cases have been diagnosed in the United States: a traveler, Thomas Duncan, from the region and two health care workers who were part of his treatment team. No infections have occurred among the 43 individuals in contact with Mr. Duncan prior to his admission to the hospital, and they are no longer considered at risk of infection.

Ebola spreads from person-to-person by direct contact with a person's body fluids. For most people it takes 8 to 10 days after exposure to the virus for symptoms to develop, but the incubation period can range from 2 to 21 days. Typical symptoms of Ebola include severe headache, fever, stomach or muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting and unexplained blood loss or bleeding. People infected with Ebola are infectious while they have fever or other symptoms. People who do not show any symptoms are not infectious.

Disease Outbreak Response Planning

Containment is a coordinated effort at all levels of government as well as the private sector. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance to local health departments, emergency medical services providers, hospitals, etc., as well as the general public. The CDC and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are

MEMBERS, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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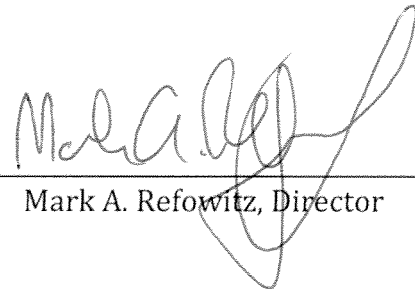
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hosting regular informational calls. A federal rapid response team has been established by the Pentagon to deploy 30 specialty healthcare workers to any jurisdiction to manage an identified case.

Under HCA leadership, preparedness activities are occurring in concert with the Orange County Sheriff's Department's (OCSD) Emergency Management Division and specifically in accordance with the County's Emergency Operations Plan – Disease Outbreak Response Annex. An interdepartmental planning group is established and meets regularly to identify and address system needs. Examples of preparedness response activities include the following:

- Hospitals have reviewed their communicable disease plans and are assuring they have proper infection control practices in place.
- HCA has surveyed hospitals and will be utilizing CDPH and/or CDC tools to conduct onsite assessments of hospital readiness in addition to working with key hospitals to conduct preparedness drills.
- The Orange County Public Health Laboratory has coordinated plans with the CDC, the Los Angeles County Public Health Laboratory, and Orange County hospitals to assure quick and proper packaging and transport of suspect specimens for testing.
- The Orange County Fire Authority and private ambulance companies are assuring that paramedics have proper personal protective equipment and appropriate training, and are planning for decontamination of ambulances after transporting suspect or confirmed Ebola patients.
- The Orange County Sheriff's Department will support enforcement of Health Officer Quarantine Orders as needed.
- The HCA has plans in place for support of people who have been exposed to an Ebola patient and are under quarantine. This includes placing them in alternate housing, if necessary, due to contamination of their primary residence.
- The HCA is engaged in regular communication with the public by providing up to date information on the agency's Ebola website, and by responding to media inquiries.

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

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