

Ebola Preparedness Activities

Emergency planning is well underway in Orange County in response to the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak which is in the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. As of October 19, 2014, nearly 10,000 cases had been identified and approximately half have died. Three cases have been diagnosed in the United States: a traveler from the region and two health care workers who were part of his treatment team.

Disease Outbreak Response Planning

Local preparedness activities are occurring in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California Department of Public Health. The County of Orange Health Care Agency is working closely with hospitals, health care providers, law enforcement, and other entities to assure Orange County is well prepared for any public health threat including Ebola. In the event of an Ebola case in Orange County, the county's emergency operations plan will be used to ensure a coordinated approach to monitoring and limiting the spread of disease.

Key Preparedness Activities

- Distributing information to hospitals, clinics, laboratories and health-care providers on CDC screening protocols and management of suspected and confirmed Ebola patients
- Assessing hospitals on infection control and preparedness plans
- Hospitals are conducting training exercises including demonstrating patient care protocols and appropriate use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Assuring that county health workers have protective equipment and proper training as recommended by the CDC
- Orange County Public Health Laboratory has coordinated plans with the CDC, Los Angeles County Public Health Lab (LAPHL), and hospitals to assure quick and proper packaging and transport of suspect specimens. LAPHL is a designated CDC site having capacity to test for Ebola.
- HCA has plans in place for support of quarantined individuals, which includes placing individuals in alternate housing if necessary due to contamination of primary residence
- Orange County Sheriff's Department is ready to provide support, including enforcement of quarantine orders, securing an airliner at John Wayne Airport, etc.



Focus on the Facts

- The Ebola outbreak is currently present in only three West African countries; Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- Only individuals having contact with the body fluid of an Ebola case in the last 21 days are at risk of acquiring the disease.
- The likelihood of coming into contact with an infectious Ebola patient in Orange County is very remote.

Where can the public go for more information?

Orange County Health Care Agency
www.ochealthinfo.com/ebola

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Ebola Hotline
(855) 421-5921 / Mon-Fri, 8:00 – 5:00
www.cdph.ca.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
(800)-CDC-INFO / www.cdc.gov