



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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October 23, 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 #2

The Health Care Agency (HCA) is providing the following information to keep your Honorable Board updated on evolving and relevant national and local preparedness activities in response to the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak. Please refer to previous letters for additional background information. This is provided for informational purposes; there are no suspect or confirmed cases in Orange County.

Recent changes in federal guidance have created a stronger layered risk reduction process that will serve to decrease the risk of transmission of Ebola in the United States.

- A new policy will funnel 100% of the approximately 150 daily travelers from the three impacted countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone to enter the U.S. through five airports (New York's JFK International Airport, Washington-Dulles, Newark, Chicago-O'Hare, and Atlanta) where active screening occurs. These airports previously served 94% of travelers from the affected countries.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has initiated a system of coordination with state and local public health authorities for the active post-arrival monitoring of travelers for 21 days - the potential incubation period. Travelers are provided a CARE (Check and Report Ebola) kit at the airport with information and requirements for self-monitoring. HCA is prepared to follow up daily with any travelers to Orange County.



Traveler CARE Kit

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p1022-post-arrival-monitoring.html>

MEMBERS, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Information Letter: Ebola Preparedness, Update #2

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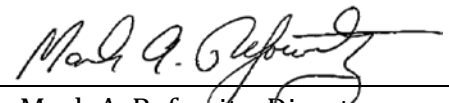
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- Federal strike teams have been established to be deployed to assist local hospitals and health departments safely manage a confirmed case. In addition, the CDC has sent Technical Assistance Teams to the jurisdictions containing the five airports to solidify containment and response plans at key hospitals.

Local preparedness activities continue and include the following.

- Hospital preparedness is being supported through:
 - information, provision of assessment tools, and training offered to all area hospitals to enforce the message “think Ebola and care carefully;”
 - site visits to the county’s largest hospitals to assure readiness; and
 - support for, and observation of, drills at several hospitals.
- Training on control and management of communicable disease outbreaks (including Ebola) is being provided to Public Health staff. This includes a three-hour training provided to more than 60 nurses, communicable disease investigators, epidemiologists and support staff this morning.
- Increased public information is available on HCA’s website at www.ochealthinfo.com/ebola including postings of the letters to the Board of Supervisors. A press release regarding preparedness activities and the availability of public information was sent out to local media outlets by the County’s Public Information Officer on Wednesday, October 22.

Please feel 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

MR:df:14-086

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