



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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October 28, 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 #4

The Health Care Agency (HCA) is providing the following information to keep your Honorable Board updated on evolving and relevant local and national 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.

Active Monitoring

As described in previous letters, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now coordinating a layered active monitoring system of the (approximately) 100 travelers (U.S. citizens or visitors) coming into the US daily from the three impacted countries of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. One hundred percent of the travelers – regardless of risk - are being referred to local health departments to monitor their health for 21 days.

Jurisdictions throughout the country have begun active monitoring of referred travelers. Orange County received notice of two travelers yesterday and has conducted face-to-face assessments and begun the required daily monitoring.

Hazardous Medical Waste

Questions have been raised regarding the handling, transporting and destruction of potentially contaminated materials and medical waste associated with an Ebola patient. Such waste would be treated similarly to other biohazardous waste, and consistent with guidance provided by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). National medical waste disposal companies collect biohazardous waste from medical facilities or provide cleanup services of biohazardous waste at locations such as a residence or business facility.

In California, biohazardous waste is either autoclaved on site to sanitize it or sent out-of-state for incineration. Some hospitals and medical facilities have the capacity to autoclave small amounts of waste; however most waste associated with Ebola would likely be transported out-of-state for

MEMBERS, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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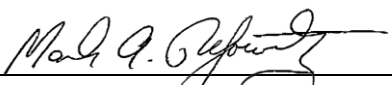
incineration. The South Coast Air Quality Management District regulates air emissions from stationary sources, such as incinerators and due to air quality standards in California, there are no medical waste incinerators in the state.

24/7 Access to Public Health

As conveyed to your Board this morning, there are several layers of resources available to the public to request information about Ebola or to report concerns, including health concerns.

- All travelers being monitored by Public Health are provided a 24/7 number to report any changes in their health condition or to ask questions. These travelers are virtually the only individuals in the county at any risk for Ebola.
- The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and health care providers have routine 24/7 access to the EMS duty officer and/or the On Call Public Health Medical Officer (who is Deputized Health Officer). Any questions or concerns about a suspected Ebola patient will be immediately directed to Public Health authorities.
- The general public is being directed to the state established hotline (1-855) 421-5921 which is staffed Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. In addition, Orange County residents can call HCA's Health Referral Line at (1-800) 564-8448; TDD line (1-800) 801-7100 which is also available Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm with an after-hours message redirecting callers with urgent needs.

Please 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

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