



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

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Scott Walker, Governor  
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

**Ebola Situation Report**  
October 17, 2014 at 12:00pm

**Overview**

- There are no Ebola cases in Wisconsin at this time.
- 2014 Ebola outbreak is affecting multiple countries in West Africa and is considered the largest outbreak in history. About half of the people who have gotten Ebola in this outbreak have died.
- CDC has confirmed the first travel-associated case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the United States and has confirmed two additional cases among health care workers who provided care for the first case.
- Ebola is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids of a sick person or exposure to objects such as needles that have been contaminated. Ebola is not air-borne. Individuals are only contagious when they have symptoms.
- In the event Ebola is diagnosed in the state, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services will ensure that the public and health care providers receive prompt public health information.

**What the Department of Health Services (DHS) is doing to prepare**

- DHS has been assisting health care partners by providing guidelines for monitoring individuals traveling to the United States from affected West African countries, and ensuring that all providers are ready with the appropriate infection control protocols and required precautions for managing an Ebola patient.
- DHS is in ongoing communication with the CDC regarding current developments and guidelines, and make sure all Wisconsin health care providers and local health departments have that information.
- DHS is receiving, tracking, and following up on a wide range of Ebola information and guidance requests from public health partners and agencies.
- DHS continues exploring the best methods for communicating with partners to share information and discuss strategies to operationalize federal guidance. Information about Ebola Virus Disease for health professionals and for the general public is posted on the [DHS website](#).
- On Tuesday, 10/14/14, DHS presented at a symposium on Ebola Preparedness.
- On Thursday, 10/16/14, DHS presented at Wisconsin Emergency Management Association in Oshkosh.
- DHS is coordinating with Wisconsin Hospital Association regarding the best way to assist hospitals in response.
- DHS is coordinating with the Department of Military Affairs' Civil Support Team on strategies and guidance regarding Ebola clean up in non-healthcare setting
- DHS is reaching out to Red Cross, Salvation Army and other volunteer organizations to coordinate information regarding contingencies for alternate housing.
- DHS is collaborating with the Department of Natural Resources regarding transport and disposal of Ebola waste.
- DHS is reaching out to public safety answering points (911 centers) to provide information and determine needs.
- DHS is coordinating with 211 Wisconsin to determine level of interest and inquiries from the general public and will be developing talking points for 211 operators.

**Upcoming Ebola Updates**

- On Friday, 10/17/14 – DHS will host a webcast at 2:00 pm, for hospitals, health care providers, local public health, and EMS.
- On Monday, 10/20/14 at 2:00 pm, there will be a DHS Ebola webcast for partners.
- Beginning Thursday, 10/23/14, DHS will start distributing a weekly external Situation Report to partners to be distributed each Thursday.
- Beginning Tuesday, 10/28/14, there will be weekly webcast for Ebola response on Tuesdays at 2:00pm starting on 10/28/14.