



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

Ebola Situation Report

October 23, 2014 at 10:00 am

Overview

- There are no Ebola cases in Wisconsin at this time.
- 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 of the disease.
- 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 is working closely with the Wisconsin National Guard to train Ebola response units as announced by Governor Scott Walker last week. These teams will serve as back-up response units to the existing capacities of Wisconsin's health system.
- DHS continues to assist all partners by receiving, tracking, and disseminating the most up to date guidance from other states and federal partners. Visit the DHS Ebola website for more information: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebola.htm>
- DHS has released interim guidance on the safe disposal of Ebola patient waste in sanitary sewers which is available on this DHS Ebola website.
- On Monday, 10/20/14, DHS hosted a webcast featuring a presentation from the University of Wisconsin on hospital preparedness. This webcast, along with partner webcasts from previous weeks, are now available on the web.
- DHS and local health departments are now actively monitoring incoming travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. For more information on this monitoring program, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2014/p1022-post-arrival-monitoring.html>.
- The CDC released new guidelines this week on personal protective equipment (PPE) for care providers. DHS is working with healthcare partners to disseminate and implement these best practices.
- DHS released new guidance for Emergency Medical Services which have been distributed to EMS providers throughout the state.

Upcoming Ebola Outreach and Webinars

- The next weekly webcast for Wisconsin's Ebola response will be Tuesdays at 2:00 pm starting on 10/28/14.