Ebola Situation Report
November 6, 2014

Overview

• There are no Ebola cases in Wisconsin at this time.

• The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is being notified of all individuals from the affected West African countries travelling to Wisconsin, and is actively monitoring the individuals. DHS and/or local public health authorities are in daily communication with these individuals and are checking to assess for the presence of fever or other symptoms. By actively monitoring these individuals DHS is minimizing the risk of spreading Ebola by ensuring that if these individuals become ill, they are identified as soon as possible after symptom onset so they can be rapidly isolated and evaluated.

• In the event Ebola is diagnosed in the state, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services will work with partners and the three designated health systems to care for patients, ensuring that the patient receives the best care while protecting healthcare workers and the general public.

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

• On Monday, November 3, DHS released updated guidance for Local Health Department Staff Regarding Direct Active Post-Arrival Monitoring of Travelers from West Africa. The most significant change was a new directive from CDC requiring that persons who have had risky exposures have daily direct active monitoring by the LHD. Direct active monitoring requires that a public health official directly observes the individual at least once a day to review symptoms and check temperature.

• DHS hosted the fifth in a series of weekly webcasts on Tuesday, November 4, that provided information on the role of non-designated healthcare facilities, providers and EMS in Ebola response. A recording of this webcast and previous webcasts can be found at: http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebolawebcasts.htm.

• DHS continues to work closely with the Wisconsin National Guard to train Ebola response units. The National Guard’s Joint Healthcare Assistance Teams (JHAT) completed the initial Personal Protective Equipment training at Volk Field. Two two-day training sessions October 30-31, 2014 and November 1-2, 2014 were held with a Department of Health Services approved curriculum. Additional training is being developed.

• DHS continues to assist all partners by receiving, tracking, and disseminating the most up to date guidance from other state and federal partners. Visit the DHS Ebola website for more information: http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebola.htm.

Upcoming Ebola Outreach and Webinars
On Friday, November 7, representatives from DHS and the Clinical Advisory Team (CAT), representing several hospital systems in Wisconsin, will meet in Madison to discuss and coordinate Ebola planning. Topics will include the supply of personal protective equipment, the integration of care between hospitals, and disposal of hazardous medical waste/decontamination procedures.

The next weekly webcast for Wisconsin’s Ebola response will be held on Tuesday November 11, 2014 at 2:00pm. A link for this webcast and previous webcasts can be found at: http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebolawebcasts.htm.