



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

Ebola Situation Report

November 20, 2014

Overview

- There are no Ebola cases in Wisconsin at this time.
- As of November 19, 2014, eight people in Wisconsin currently meet the criteria for Ebola surveillance by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). DHS has monitored a total of 63 people, 55 of whom have passed the 21-day incubation period for Ebola and no longer require monitoring.
- Beginning Monday, November 17, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) added Mali to the list of Ebola-affected countries (previously Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) from which travelers will be screened for Ebola upon arrival into the United States and subsequently monitored for 21 days. Travelers will arrive at one of the five US airports currently conducting enhanced screening: New York - JFK; Newark; Atlanta-Hartsfield; Chicago - O'Hare; and Washington, DC - Dulles.
- CDC notifies DHS of all individuals traveling from the affected West African countries to Wisconsin, and DHS notifies the local public health agencies (LPHAs) where those individuals reside. These LPHAs are in daily communication with the travelers and are checking for the presence of fever or other symptoms. This active monitoring ensures that if these individuals become ill, they can be rapidly isolated and evaluated.
- In the event Ebola is diagnosed in the state, DHS will work with partners and the three designated health systems to care for patients, ensuring that each 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 a memo containing *Guidance for Local Health Department Staff Regarding Direct Active Post-Arrival Monitoring of Travelers from West Africa*. This guidance includes a new directive from the CDC requiring that persons who have been classified as either high or some risk experience daily direct active monitoring by the LHD. Direct active monitoring requires that a public health official personally observes the individual in question at least once a day as they check their temperature and review any symptoms.
- On Thursday, November 20, DHS sent out guidance to Wisconsin City and County Jails and Detention Facilities (through Local Health Agencies) with recommendations for screening for Ebola Virus Disease risk factors during intake at these facilities.
- DHS has established a three-level approach to categorizing healthcare facilities that may receive Ebola patients. Category one consists of treatment facilities; category two contains testing and early care

facilities; and category three are those facilities that will screen and transfer only. A similar strategy for categorizing the participation of EMS services in Ebola response is under development.

- DHS staff members tested the state's Ebola Response Plan through a two-part tabletop exercise on November 5 and November 19, 2014.
- The Wisconsin Clinical Advisory Team, composed of representatives from several Wisconsin hospital systems, met for the third time to advise DHS in its ongoing work on Ebola, including identifying optimal personal protective equipment, care integration between hospitals, disposal of hazardous medical waste, and decontamination procedures.
- DHS hosted the seventh in a series of weekly webcasts on Tuesday, November 18. During this webinar, DHS staff briefly introduced the newly published DHS guidance on the decontamination, handling and transport of non-clinical Ebola waste, and staff from Public Health of Madison/Dane County and Dane County EMS spoke about local level coordination of Ebola readiness between public health, EMS and law enforcement. A recording of this webcast (and previous webcasts) can be found at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebolawebcasts.htm>.
- A legal toolkit for local public health departments containing templates and communications around Ebola was disseminated via email to local health officers on Tuesday, November 18. An informational webcast on the toolkit and legal principles was given by Legal Counsel with the Department of Health Services Shelley Malofsky. A recording of the webcast can be found at: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebolawebcasts.htm>.
- 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

- The next weekly webcast for Wisconsin's Ebola response will be held on Tuesday December 2, 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>.
- A conference call on Caring for Patients with Ebola will be held by the Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) out of CDC on Monday, November 24, 2014. Information on this call can be found at http://www.bt.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_112414.asp.