



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

Ebola Situation Report

December 11, 2014

Overview

- There are no Ebola cases in Wisconsin at this time.
- As of December 10, 2014, four people in Wisconsin currently meet the criteria for Ebola surveillance by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). DHS has monitored a total of 68 people, one of whom has left the state, and 63 of whom have passed the 21-day incubation period for Ebola and no longer require monitoring.
- 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, and ensure coordinated communication with response partners, including the Governor's Office and the Department of Military Affairs via the Incident Command System activated on October 3, 2014.
- As of December 7, 2014, the total number of Ebola cases in West Africa is reported to be 17,908 with 6,373 deaths. For the first time in this outbreak, Sierra Leone has surpassed Liberia in the number of cases. In regions of the country, where transmissions rates are particularly high, lockdowns have been ordered and jail time threatened for those who perform traditional burial rituals or hide bodies from the authorities, because of the potential of those actions to spread disease.

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

- The After Action Report from the November Ebola exercise for DHS was presented to staff on Monday, December 8, 2014. Areas of improvement were identified and action steps begun.
- Guidance for Emergency Medical Services was released on Monday, December 8, 2014. Jennifer Ullsvik, Director of the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care at DHS, presented on this information on the regular Ebola webcast for partners on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.
- Brian Kaczmariski, Training and Exercise Coordinator for the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care, also presented on the Ebola webcast on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, speaking about tabletop exercise resources around Ebola that DHS has developed and made available for partner use. These materials were distributed prior to broadcast.

- DHS staff met with leadership at the National Guard to plan how the trained National Guard teams could best be integrated into the different categories of Ebola facilities.
- DHS has created a *Pet and Animal Contact Recommendation Algorithm for Asymptomatic Travelers Returning from Ebola Affected Countries* to provide to individuals being monitored for individuals being monitored for Ebola so that they can make decisions about their exposure to pets or farm/hobby animals during the monitoring period.
- Hospitals from across Wisconsin have identified their level of capability and readiness in terms of an Ebola Response. As of the deadline of December 5, 20 hospitals had self-identified as Category 2 hospitals (that can safely hold potential Ebola patients for up to 96 hours while health status is determined), while 61 others stated that they would be Category 3 hospitals (that will initially screen and identify potential Ebola cases and then transfer those patients to Category 2 facilities).
- DHS continues to engage in discussions with leaders from Michigan and Iowa about cross-border coordination of transport and care of Ebola patients.
- The next weekly webcast for Wisconsin's Ebola response will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 2:00pm. This webcast can be accessed at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebolawebcasts.htm>. This webcast will feature representatives from the City of Milwaukee Health Department and Public Health Madison Dane County, presenting on their experiences with returning traveler notification and monitoring. State Health Officer and Administrator Karen McKeown will also provide an overview of Wisconsin's Ebola preparedness activities to date.
- 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>.