

Ebola: Overview and Discussion

Knox County Health Department

October 20-21, 2014



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Knox County Health Department

Agenda

- Overview of Ebola
- State of Illinois and Illinois Department of Public Health Updates
- Local Health Department Role and Responsibility
- Guidance

What is Ebola

- A disease caused by the Ebola virus
- First discovered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1976
- Found in several African countries
- Rare but deadly

Currently

- The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa
- **Risk** of an Ebola outbreak in the United States is **very low**, CDC and partners are taking precautions to prevent this from happening

Signs and Symptoms

- Appear 2-21 days after exposed to the virus, 8-10 days on average
 - Fever higher than 100.4°F
 - Severe headache
 - Muscle pain
 - Weakness
 - Diarrhea
 - Vomiting
 - Stomach pain
 - Unexplained bleeding or bruising

How is Ebola spread?

- Ebola is spread by coming into direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of a person infected with Ebola
- Objects contaminated with the virus, such as needles used on an Ebola patient
- **Travel History AND Exposure**

Ebola is NOT spread...

- Before symptoms appear
- By casual contact
- Through air
- Through water
- Through food

Treatment

- There is currently no cure for Ebola
- Supportive care is the standard treatment
- There are treatments being developed but they have not been tested for safety in humans yet

Who is at risk?

- People who have traveled to West Africa, specifically Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and...
- Had direct contact with blood or bodily fluid from a person with Ebola
- Went to a hospital where Ebola patients were being treated and had contact with patients

Persons at Risk

- Travel History and Exposure
- Be alert for Ebola symptoms for 21 days
- Take your temperature every morning and night

State of Illinois and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)

- [Enhanced Screening at Major Airports](#)
- CDC Quarantine Station ([Chicago](#))
- Ebola Hotline and website
 - 800-889-3931
 - <http://www.ebola.illinois.gov/>
- Forming an Advisory Task Force
- IDPH lab able to test specimens
- Designated Hospitals
- Disseminating Guidance

What Enhanced U.S. entry screening looks like

- CBP will give each traveler health information that includes:
 - Information about Ebola;
 - Symptoms to look for and what to do if symptoms develop;
 - Information for doctors if travelers need to seek medical attention.
- Travelers will undergo screening measures to include:
 - Answer questions to determine potential risk;
 - Have their temperature taken;
 - Be observed for other symptoms of Ebola.
- If a traveler has a fever or other symptoms or has been exposed to Ebola, CBP will refer to CDC to further evaluate the traveler. CDC will determine whether the traveler:
 - Can continue to travel;
 - Is taken to a hospital for evaluation, testing, and treatment;
 - Is referred to a local health department for further monitoring and support.

Ebola Hotline

1-800-889-3931

Local Health Department

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Contact Tracing
 - Isolation and Quarantine

Contact Tracing

- Those sick or identified during screening will be directed at appropriate hospital(s)
- Those not sick, but with a low risk will be monitored by *final destination* local health department
- Elements of Contact Tracing
 - Identification
 - Contact List
 - Contact Follow-up

Authority: Isolation and Quarantine

- Title 77: Chapter I: Subchapter K: Part 690 Section 1305 Department of Public Health Authority
 - *authority in matters of quarantine and isolation*
 - *may order physical examinations and tests and collect laboratory specimens*
 - *may order the administration of vaccines, medications, or other treatments may order observation and monitoring*
- may take actions that it considers necessary to prevent the spread of any dangerously contagious or infectious disease

Disinfection Guidance

- Use an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant with a label claim for one of the non-enveloped viruses (e.g., norovirus, rotavirus, adenovirus, poliovirus)
- Disinfectant should be available in spray bottles or as commercially prepared wipes for use during transport.
- Bleach as a disinfectant
 - 1:10 solution
 - Prepared daily

Travel Guidance

- CDC's recommendations against non-essential travel, including education-related travel, are intended to help control the outbreak and prevent continued spread
- At this time, there is no risk of contracting Ebola in other countries in the West Africa region where Ebola cases have not been reported. However the situation could change rapidly.

Student Health Center Guidance

- CDC recommendations for student health centers are the same as those for other US health care workers and settings
- CDC is not recommending colleges and universities isolate or quarantine students, faculty, or staff based on travel history alone

Student Health Center Guidance cont.

- Colleges and universities should identify students, faculty, and staff who have been in countries where Ebola outbreaks are occurring within the past 21 days and should conduct a risk assessment with each identified person to determine his or her [level of risk exposure](#)
- All students, faculty, and staff who have been in these countries within the past 21 days should be given instructions for health monitoring

Knox County Health Department

Knox Community Health Center

- Our Actions
 - Notified staff
 - Disseminated Screening Information
 - Provided contact information for questions or concerns
 - Identified 'Isolation Room'
 - PPE
 - Continue to disseminate guidance from IDPH/CDC

Stigmatization

- Communicate early the risk or lack of risk from associations with products, people, and places
- Raise awareness of the potential problem
- Counter stigmatization with accurate information
- Speak out against negative behaviors

Contact Information

Ebola Hotline: 1-800-889-3931

Knox County Health Department: 309-344-2224