

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.  
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

October 8, 2014

Dear EMS provider:

Confirmation last week by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the first case of Ebola virus disease (EVD) diagnosed in the United States underscores the importance for all Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Workers to be prepared.

Every EMS agency and system, including those that provide non-emergency and/or inter-facility transport, should ensure that their personnel can detect a person under investigation (PUI) for Ebola, protect themselves so they can safely care for the patient, and respond in a coordinated fashion. Emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, along with other emergency services staff, have a vital role in responding to requests for help, triaging patients, and providing emergency treatment to patients.

The CDC has issued guidance for managers of 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), EMS Agencies, EMS systems, law enforcement agencies and fire service agencies as well as individual emergency medical services providers (including emergency medical technicians (EMTs), paramedics, and medical first responders, such as law enforcement and fire service personnel). Individual providers can use this information to respond to suspected Ebola patients.

I encourage you to carefully review this interim guidance, which can be accessed at this link: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-emergency-medical-services-systems-911-public-safety-answering-points-management-patients-known-suspected-united-states.html>

### Key points of this guidance include:

- In the United States, the likelihood of contracting Ebola is extremely low unless a person has direct unprotected contact with the blood or body fluids (like urine, saliva, feces, vomit, sweat, and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola.
- It is important for PSAPs to question callers about:
  - Residence in, or travel to, a country where an Ebola outbreak is occurring;
  - Signs and symptoms of Ebola (such as fever, vomiting, diarrhea); and
  - Other risk factors, like having touched someone who is sick with Ebola.
- PSAPs should tell EMS personnel this information before they get to the location so they can put on the correct personal protective equipment (PPE).
- EMS staff should check for symptoms and risk factors for Ebola. Staff should notify the receiving healthcare facility in advance when they are bringing a patient with suspected Ebola, so that proper infection control precautions can be taken.



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Additional Ebola resources include an EMS checklist for Ebola preparedness and the CDC Ebola web page:

- [http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/ems/pdf/reference\\_documents/ems\\_checklist\\_ebola\\_preparedness.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/ems/pdf/reference_documents/ems_checklist_ebola_preparedness.pdf)
- [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola)

Please also consider signing up to receive CDC health alerts and advisories. This is one of the best ways to stay informed about emergent health issues, not just EVD. Please visit <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/updates.asp> to register for this valuable resource.

DPH will continue to provide EMS providers timely information from the CDC, and alert the public should Ebola directly affect Connecticut residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jewel Mullen", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA  
Commissioner