

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
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October 1, 2014

The outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa. Although the risk of an Ebola outbreak in the United States is very low, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and partners are taking precautions to prevent this from happening.

Yesterday, CDC's confirmation of the first case of EVD diagnosed in the United States underscores the importance for all hospitals to prepare for managing patients with EVD and other infectious diseases. Now is the time to prepare, as it is likely that other persons infected with Ebola virus in West Africa will travel to the United States, develop signs and symptoms of EVD after arrival, and present to hospital emergency departments or other medical facilities.

Every hospital should ensure that it can detect a patient with Ebola, protect healthcare workers so they can safely care for the patient, and respond in a coordinated fashion. Many of the signs and symptoms of EVD are non-specific and similar to those of many common infectious diseases, as well as other infectious diseases with high mortality rates. Transmission can be prevented with appropriate infection control measures.

Any U.S. hospital that is following CDC's infection control recommendations and can isolate a patient in a private room is capable of safely managing a patient with EVD. CDC recommends that U.S. hospitals isolate the patient in a private room and implement standard, contact, and droplet precautions.

Please review the CDC advisories and other related information DPH has distributed to your hospital infection control staff and emergency department directors over the past few months.



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Attached is a detailed hospital checklist for Ebola preparedness, which we previously shared with your hospital planning staff. To help us assess Connecticut's readiness for Ebola response, please complete and return the checklist to Mary Emerling (mary.emerling@ct.gov) and Jonathan Best (jonathan.best@ct.gov) in the DPH Office of Public Health Preparedness no later than Monday, October 13, 2014.

If you have questions about completing the checklist, please contact the Office of Public Health Preparedness at (860) 509-8282. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
Commissioner

cc: Connecticut Local Health Directors

Attachment