



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 21, 2014

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CHH", is written over the printed name "C. H. Huckelberry".

Re: Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness Update

Attached please find the most recent Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness Update from Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Pima County Health Department (PCHD).

Of particular interest is the possibility that a hospital in southern Arizona will be designated as one of two "Infectious Disease Centers of Excellence" in Arizona. This will be beneficial to our community in that both diagnostic and therapeutic services will be available to people in need in Pima County. As part of the selection and designation process, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will be actively vetting candidate institutions to identify their current capacity as well as potential ability to simultaneously respond to these unlikely threats while continuing to serve in a safe and effective manner the local community. All appropriate County staff are engaged in the various elements of decision making and communications processes.

CHH/cbc

Attachments

c: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Health Department

Date: November 21, 2014

To: C. H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Dr. Francisco García 
Health Department Director

Via: Jan Leshner 
Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services

RE: Ebola Virus Disease Situational Update

The purpose of this communication is to provide you with a situational update regarding the Ebola Viral Disease preparedness planning activities in Pima County.

Traveler Monitoring Activity

As part of PCHD's active monitoring effort, a single individual with a travel history is currently being followed for signs and symptoms of EVD in Pima County. At this time, 8 of the 21 days of monitoring remain for this individual and there have been no indications of illness. Another individual that had previously been under surveillance has left the County.

PCHD monitoring currently consists of twice daily telephonic check-ins that include assessment for symptoms, reporting of temperature, and developing transport and contingency plans should the individual become symptomatic. Additionally, PCHD nursing staff provides an in-home assessment to evaluate the traveler once per week. At that time they document the individual's ability and willingness to comply with monitoring, review planned activities and travel while in County, as well as identifying emerging needs.

Local Preparedness Planning

The Pima County EVD Workgroup has finalized and began the testing of multiple response protocols that have been developed as part of this effort. Of note, all of the hospitals in Pima County have submitted their EVD response plans for review by PCHD and all will have exercised their plan at least once by November 21, 2014. PCHD has also reviewed similar plans developed for four of our County's largest ambulatory care providers including one which has also exercised their plan.

The Public Safety Workgroup has developed draft EMS and law enforcement response protocols that have been informed and reviewed by PCHD. As part of this process the

group has developed a standardized personal protective equipment kit that will be carried on all EMS vehicles, and is also creating an instructional video on its proper use to be partially underwritten by PCHD. This group has also articulated the need for a regional hospital partner to be identified locally to simplify EMS response and planning.

The Emergency Management group has identified the capacity to conduct video conferencing between area hospitals and PC Superior Court should a quarantine hearing become necessary. Transportation protocols for suspect cases from Tucson International Airport to area hospitals have been added to the nearly complete quarantine and isolation plan. Protocols for potential sheltering, feeding, and care of quarantined families are also currently under development for this element of a potential EVD response.

The Schools and Public Institution subgroup is continuing to share up to date information with their partners. This includes the development of standard presentations and written materials to be shared with students, parents and employees.

The Public Information Workgroup has identified all relevant Public Information Officers from hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, and other public institutions. Communications systems are being developed and tools created to facilitate consistent and accurate messaging.

EVD Evaluation and Treatment Resources

On November 7th 2014, the Arizona Department of Health Services with the concurrence of the Maricopa County Special Health Care District Board of Directors designated the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS) as an "Infectious Disease Center of Excellence." This designation formalizes MIHS's agreement to accept laboratory-confirmed cases of EVD and suspect cases who are both returned travelers from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, or Mali and cases currently being monitored by public health.

Additionally ADHS and PCHD have participated in discussions with the goal of identifying an appropriate hospital in southern Arizona to serve a similar function in order to serve the second largest population center and as redundant capacity to MIHS. These conversations have matured to the point where a southern Arizona hospital has been identified to go on to the next level of review and vetting by CDC.

It is anticipated that these designations will be made public when the Governor's Infectious Disease Preparedness publishes its statewide plan the first week of December. We are targeting the publication of our local plan to coincide with this date.

Threat Assessment

I continue to believe that the threat of EVD to Pima County remains low. From a preparedness standpoint the County and its health and public sectors are vigorously engaged in planning that will allow us to stand up a robust response in the case that an EVD case should be identified in Pima County. This is greatly facilitated by identifying a designated hospital partner with whom to continue to develop and exercise our plan.

C. H. Huckelberry, County Administrator
Re: Ebola Virus Disease Situational Update
November 21, 2014
Page 3

We remain vigilant on this quickly evolving issue and will send you an update if there is a substantial revision in our assessment.

FG/cbc

c: Mike Hein, Director, Office of Emergency Management
Jeff Nordenson, Director, Communications Department