



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 10, 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 read "CHH", is written over the typed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Public Health Response Related to Ebola**

On October 1, 2014, the Pima County Health Department released the first local Public Health Alert related to Ebola (attached). The alert summarized the facts related to the first Ebola case diagnosed in the U.S. and explained the risk and symptoms of Ebola. Since then, Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director of the Pima County Health Department, has continued through media interviews and releases to keep the public updated on the facts and findings related to the spread of this disease.

In an effort to harmonize practices and begin to establish regional protocols in the event of a locally identified case of Ebola, Dr. Garcia has been working with Mike Hein, Director of the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to identify strategic stakeholders who will be invited to attend the initial planning meeting on October 16, 2014 from 12:00 to 2:00 PM. The initial group will consist of representatives of Public Safety Answering Points, hospitals, schools, emergency management services, and first responders. It is expected this group will facilitate future meetings with other stakeholders to develop any Incident Action Plans or protocols to be employed in the event such is necessitated.

In addition, when Dr. Garcia convenes strategic stakeholders to establish regional protocols in the event of a locally identified case of Ebola, he will develop or review with the appropriate partners specific protocols to be used with travelers and visitors to Pima County. Pima County should be prepared for the general influx of winter visitors, as well as the increase in worldwide travel to our community related to the Gem and Mineral Show and the Tucson Rodeo.

An initial Incident Action Plan is expected in the next week and, along with regular updates, will be provided to the Board of Supervisors.

CHH/mjk
Attachment

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



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01 October 2014

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

First Ebola Case Diagnosed in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed, through laboratory tests, the first case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the United States in a person who had traveled to Dallas, Texas from Liberia. The person did not have symptoms when leaving West Africa, but developed symptoms approximately four days after arriving in the U.S. on Sept. 20.

Even with the first Ebola case diagnosed in the U.S., Ebola does not pose a significant risk to the U.S. public. At this time, there are NO locally-acquired cases in the United States including Pima County due to the fact that the virus requires transmission through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person.

What is Ebola? Risk, Transmission, & Symptoms

- All cases of human illness or death have occurred in Africa
- Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever (HF), is a severe, often fatal illness in humans
- The virus requires transmission through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person, and exposure to objects (such as needles) that have been contaminated with infected body fluids
- The viruses that cause Ebola are often spread through families and friends because they come in close contact with infectious body fluids when caring for ill persons
- Exposure to Ebola can occur in health care settings where staff are not wearing appropriate protective equipment, such as masks, gowns, and gloves or using appropriate infection control measures.

- Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola virus though 8-10 days is most common
- Signs and symptoms may include: fever, rash, joint and muscle aches, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, lack of appetite, rash, sore throat, cough, chest pain, difficulty swallowing, difficulty breathing and bleeding inside and outside of the body

Recommendation

- More information on Ebola can be found through the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html>

For more information or if you have traveled to an area with known Ebola virus and begin to experience any of the symptoms, contact the Pima County Health Department at (520) 724-7797 or contact your medical provider.

Respectfully,



Francisco García, MD, MPH
Director & Chief Medical Officer