

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management**

**Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency**

**January 24, 2015**

**Situational Awareness Report  
Ebola Monitoring Activities**



# Situational Awareness Report: Ebola Monitoring

January 24, 2015

Report Number 10

## Current Confirmed Cases

- Massachusetts:** There are 0 confirmed cases in Massachusetts
- New England:** There are 0 confirmed cases in New England
- National:** There are 0 confirmed cases in the U.S.
- International:** The disease continues to affect the populations of Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia. As of January 23, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports: Total Cases: 21797; Laboratory-Confirmed Cases: 13602; Total Deaths: 8675

On August 8, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the current Ebola outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, with widespread transmission in multiple countries in West Africa.

- Most of the cases have been reported in three countries: Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- WHO officially declared Senegal and Nigeria free of Ebola virus transmission on October 17 and 20, respectively.
- There are currently no active cases of Ebola in Mali. The last patient tested negative for the virus on December 5, 2014.
- The United Kingdom has reported one case of Ebola in a healthcare worker who returned to Scotland from Sierra Leone after volunteering at an Ebola treatment center. The patient is receiving treatment in London and public health authorities are investigating the patient's contacts to assess their possible risk.
- On December 2, WHO officially declared the end of Ebola transmission in Spain.
- Two imported cases, including one death, and two locally acquired cases in healthcare workers were reported in the United States in 2014. There are currently no active cases of Ebola in the United States.

While there are no cases of Ebola in Massachusetts, and the risk remains extremely low, one of our most important responsibilities for the Commonwealth is preparedness.

Massachusetts continues to prepare for the low, but present risk of Ebola based on facts, science and guidance from experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), working with our partner agencies, have held numerous briefings with media and the Legislature, conducted conference calls with nearly 5,000 health, public safety and emergency management personnel, and used the

state alert network and social media to reach tens of thousands of residents across the Commonwealth to educate them about Ebola.

### **Massachusetts Ebola Unified Command**

- Several workgroups were established to coordinate planning efforts by MDPH and MEMA. These workgroups will continue to meet as needed throughout our planning efforts.
  - **Public Safety Leadership**
  - **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**
  - **Training**
  - **Transportation**
  - **Legal Working Group**
  - **Law Enforcement Regional Response Working Group**

### **Department of Public Health**

MDPH continues to work with the eight hospitals in the collaborative system that will serve as the Ebola assessment hospitals to test persons under investigation for Ebola and treatment centers for any Ebola cases that present. They are:

Baystate Medical Center  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
Boston Children's Hospital  
Boston Medical Center  
Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Tufts Medical Center  
UMass Memorial Medical Center

DPH convenes a bi-weekly call with the eight hospitals to ensure that each is prepared to evaluate, isolate, test and if necessary provide care for an individual suspected to have or diagnosed with Ebola virus disease. MDPH will meet again with the hospital collaborative by conference call next week.

- Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM)
  - The CDC has released three Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) to support Ebola preparedness and planning efforts. A fourth FOA is expected to be issued by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in mid-February to provide supplemental funding to support healthcare system preparedness and response activities.
    - OPEM worked with BID, the director of Grants and Development, and the Commissioner's Office to submit the initial CDC PHEP supplemental funding application for Ebola virus disease active monitoring and direct active monitoring activities on January 13, 2015. This funding, \$97,738, supports the development and implementation of active monitoring and

direct active monitoring of travelers who may have been exposed to Ebola and applies to the period from 12/22/2014-6/30/2015. The funding application also proposed funding to support establishment of assessment hospitals.

- CDC published a second supplemental PHEP FOA on January 15<sup>th</sup> to support accelerated Ebola public health preparedness planning and response. The available funding for Massachusetts, \$3,169,007, will support Ebola preparedness and planning activities as well as efforts to build on what has been learned from Ebola to be better prepared for the next emerging infectious disease. This is an 18 month budget period (4/1/15-9/30/16). OPEM, Staff from BID, the State Lab, OEMS, the Office of Grants and Development, and others will collaborate on this application, which is due on February 20, 2015.
- The CDC has also issued a domestic Ebola funding supplement to the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) grant. These funds are to support three separate but related projects: (1) healthcare infection control assessment and response; (2) laboratory biosafety, and (3) global migration, border interventions, and migrant health. Staff from BID, the State Lab, OPEM, the Office of Grants and Development, and others will collaborate on this application, which is due February 19, 2015.
- On January 14<sup>th</sup>, OPEM hosted the a bi-weekly Ebola update call for public health, healthcare, public safety, colleges and universities, community health centers, EMS and other partners. 175 lines were in use.
- OPEM continues to monitor its email address for routine questions, concerns or other issues related to Ebola, [AskEbola@state.ma.us](mailto:AskEbola@state.ma.us). As of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 110 messages have been received and responded to.
- Bureau of Infectious Disease (BID)
  - The State Epi-on-Call is available to assist with any specific questions pertaining to follow-up with individuals identified as at risk for developing Ebola virus disease and guidance regarding isolation and quarantine as indicated.
  - For assistance in assessing whether an individual meets the criteria for a suspect case of Ebola individuals are asked to call MDPH at 617-983-6800 (24/7 Epi-on-Call line).
  - During the week of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 calls were received pertaining to Ebola. In addition, state epidemiologists and public health nurses working in the MDPH BID as well as staff from certain local health departments have been performing daily active monitoring of all travelers returning from Ebola-affected countries in West Africa to assess signs of fever or other symptoms consistent with Ebola virus disease. Travelers at low (but not zero) risk take their temperatures twice daily and report to public health once a day, seven days a week. In the case of

individuals determined to be at some risk of infection, this monitoring is performed in person by a public health nurse or other clinician qualified to assess symptoms. To date over 180 travelers have been assessed, with between 30 and 50 being monitored at any one time. No traveler has contracted Ebola virus infection.

- BID staff provided Ebola informational updates at the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Merrimack Valley MRC, the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Army Corps of Engineers and the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society Committee on Public Health. On January 29<sup>th</sup> an Ebola presentation will be made to the Symposium on the Response to Emerging Infections at the Harvard Medical School.

#### Hinton State Laboratory Institute

- The Hinton State Laboratory Institute (HSLI) will be hosting a walk through and sharing of best practices with the Vermont Public Health Lab to assist with their Ebola test implementation.
- A total of seven Ebola tests have been performed at HSLI since the Lab began testing on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Three of the seven specimens were received from outside of Massachusetts. All were negative for Ebola.

#### **Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency**

MEMA continues to be actively engaged with public safety partners on various Ebola preparedness activities.

Training for regional law enforcement teams and members of the State Police is moving forward consistent with a plan developed by MEMA in collaboration with the Law Enforcement Regional Response Working Group. To date, three training dates have been confirmed, and one additional training date is in the process of being finalized. Under the Plan, the Department of Fire Services (DFS) will provide training in the use of PPE to the State Police and police officers assigned to regional emergency response teams, and caches of PPE for the trained officers will be stored on DFS's regional hazardous materials response trucks. Hazardous materials response teams will deliver the PPE to a scene and supervise the donning and doffing of the PPE. State homeland security funds are being used to purchase the caches of PPE.

First responders are reminded that when conducting an initial assessment of a person who has a travel history or symptoms that raise a concern about whether the person may have Ebola, the on-scene personnel (police, fire or EMS) should immediately contact the MDPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800 and public health personnel will assess whether the individual meets the criteria for consideration as a suspect case of Ebola. Additionally, on-scene personnel may request assistance by calling the MEMA Communications Center at 508-820-2000.

MEMA continues to post information for the public safety community about Ebola on its website at [www.mass.gov/MEMA](http://www.mass.gov/MEMA). Public safety personnel should check the website on a regular basis for informational bulletins, advisories, and guidance on managing suspected or diagnosed cases of Ebola.

### **Upcoming Activities**

The next weekly statewide Ebola update call will be held on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

### **For further information please go to:**

- MDPH: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/ebola>
- MEMA: <http://www.mass.gov/mema>
- CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html>
- WHO: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>
- USDOT: <http://phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/transporting-infectious-substances>