

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

Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

January 9, 2015

**Situational Awareness Report
Ebola Monitoring Activities**



Situational Awareness Report: Ebola Monitoring

January 9, 2015

Report Number 9

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. CDC recently added Mali to the list of affected countries. As of January 8th, the WHO reports: Total Cases: 20972; Laboratory-Confirmed Cases: 13354; Total Deaths: 8259

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. Since a December 15th Ebola hospital collaborative planning session, MDPH has worked with the eight hospitals to determine system/affiliation transfer patterns and to refine a draft protocol for transfer of suspected Ebola virus cases to an identified tertiary hospital for inpatient treatment. MDPH will meet again with the hospital collaborative by conference call next week.

- Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM)
 - OPEM is preparing a funding application in response to a CDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) supplemental funding opportunity announcement in support of the development and implementation of Ebola-related active monitoring and direct active monitoring programs.
 - OPEM continues to monitor its email address for routine questions, concerns or other issues related to Ebola, AskEbola@state.ma.us. As of January 7th, 107 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 December 29th, 8 calls were received pertaining to Ebola.

- 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 8th. 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, two training dates have been confirmed, and two additional training dates are 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. 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 Wednesday, January 14th at 9:00 am.

State Guidance Issued:

On January 6th, MDPH issued revised guidance for the EMS Management of Suspected Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Patients and Point of Entry.

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>