



For Immediate Release:

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Public Health Announces Ebola Readiness

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health can swiftly respond should a case of Ebola occur here

LOS ANGELES – Today the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that there is a confirmed case of Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola) in Texas. The Department of Public Health would like to reassure all residents in Los Angeles County that there are no suspected cases of Ebola here in the county.

“We do not anticipate an outbreak of Ebola to occur here, however if a suspected case of Ebola should occur, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is well-prepared and equipped to swiftly respond,” said Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, MD, MPH, Los Angeles County Interim Health Officer. “Public Health has been actively preparing for a possible case of Ebola in Los Angeles County. Public Health is confident that the level of precaution required to protect against Ebola is well within the capabilities of all hospitals in Los Angeles County.”

As part of Public Health’s readiness, the Department has taken the proactive steps of providing information about Ebola, its diagnosis, and the management of suspected cases to health care providers and all hospitals throughout the county. In the event of a single case or even multiple cases of illness, Public Health and its hospital partners have the ability to identify and diagnose any suspected Ebola case through the Public Health Laboratory, isolate any patient with a confirmed diagnosis, provide appropriate care with strict infection control, and work with those who have had contact with the patient. Any hospital in Los Angeles County with the ability to provide a patient his or her own room and bathroom is able to isolate that patient and provide competent and complete medical care for Ebola.

“It is important to note that the risk of spreading Ebola is very low in the U.S. and in LA County. Ebola patients can only spread the disease when they have symptoms, and a person ‘catches’ this illness only when they have direct contact with an infected person’s body fluids. Avoiding direct contact with the patient and his or her fluids protects others from infection,” said Dr. Gunzenhauser.

The CDC and Public Health are also working with the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), and can respond if an international traveler is suspected of having Ebola. People should avoid unnecessary travel to countries in West Africa that are currently affected by the Ebola outbreak. If you recently visited one of these countries and had contact with someone infected with Ebola, you should visit your doctor and discuss your travel history. If you visited one of these countries, but you did not have contact with anyone infected with Ebola, you should take your temperature twice a day. If you get a fever or other symptoms within 21 days of your return to the U.S., visit your doctor and discuss your travel history.



Public Health News

Public Health continues to monitor for any possible cases of Ebola, and we continue to work with our partners and health care providers to protect health, prevent disease, and promote the health and well-being of all residents of Los Angeles County.

For more information about Ebola, visit our webpage at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/diseases/Ebola.htm>.

For more information about travel advisories, visit the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/index.html>.

The Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises nearly 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding \$900 million. To learn more about Public Health and the work we do please visit <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov>, visit our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/lapublichealth>, find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/lapublichealth>, or follow us on Twitter: @LAPublicHealth.

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