



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 23, 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 printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness Update**

On October 10, 2014, I provided the Board of Supervisors with an update on efforts to coordinate regional protocols in the event of a locally identified case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). In my memorandum, I noted that an initial planning meeting was to be held on October 16, 2014. This initial EVD Planning Meeting occurred; five working groups were identified; and by the end of today, four of the five will have held their initial meetings. The fifth group will meet on Monday, October 27.

A copy of the October 16, 2014 EVD Planning Meeting agenda, a list of all invitees and attendees, and a summary of each of the five work groups is included in the attached memorandum from Health Department Director Dr. Francisco Garcia.

Pima County's efforts are coordinated and consistent with all information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the State of Arizona. Significant to the opportunity for coordination is the fact that Dr. Garcia was appointed by Governor Brewer to serve on the State's Council on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response.

Pima County planning efforts have been rapid, inclusive and informative. As the activities of the various work groups progress, I will keep the Board updated on their efforts.

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Deputy County Administrator for Medical and Health Services
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Director, Health Department
Mike Hein, Director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Date: 22 October 2014

To: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

From: Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH
Director, Health Department



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

Re: Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness Update

In September the Health Department began to prepare for the unlikely possibility of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) coming to Pima County. This preparation has included multiple calls and meetings with the Arizona Department of Health Services and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. Additional conversations, presentations and communications have occurred with a range of individual and groups of health care providers, educational institutions, and other stakeholders to provide our latest situational assessment as well as guidance for specific clinical situations that present in a variety of settings.

Our overall goal in all this work is and continues to be to develop a robust but measured response plan to reassure Pima County residents that we are actively engaged with partners at all levels to prepare for the unlikely scenario of EVD in this community, while also being careful to keep this particular risk in perspective and allay unfounded fears.

On 30 September the CDC disclosed the presence of the first imported case of EVD (Thomas Eric Duncan) to present in an outpatient setting. In response to the increased number of inquiries from the public, providers and a variety of stakeholders, the Pima County Health Department issued a Public Health Alert, a list of frequently asked questions, and a set of talking points on 1 October 2014. These materials were disseminated throughout existing institutional contacts, in presentations to groups and individuals, and were made generally available to the public as we responded to inquiries.

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the EVD threat, on 8 October and in consultation with Mike Hein (Director of the Pima County Office of Emergency Management) and Jan Leshner the Deputy County Administrator, I decided to convene a preliminary stakeholder meeting that would begin to prepare the jurisdiction to confront the threat posed by the identification of a domestic EVD case. Four days later the first domestic case of EVD was identified by CDC in a nurse who provided care for Mr. Duncan.

On 16 October 2014, we kicked off a formal EVD multi-sectorial planning process in collaboration with Mike Hein and the Office Emergency Management. The initial meeting (See attachment 1 for Agenda and Participant/Invitation List) took place at the Abrams Building, and included a total of 62 participants from across Pima County representing hospitals, ambulatory health centers, first responders, the educational sector and a variety of entities from within the County. The purpose of the initial meeting was to:

- ensure that the correct stakeholders were identified,
- establishes a knowledge base to the evolving situation,
- review emerging screening and infection control practices being implemented in this jurisdiction, and
- form working groups that would develop specific response plans appropriate for each setting.

The working groups were identified in the following areas:

- Emergency Management (convened by Mike Hein),
- Public Safety (Convened jointly by Chief Brad Olson, TFD and Lt. Leonard Pratt, Sheriff's Department),
- School & Public Institutions (convened by Kathleen Malkin from Public Health Nursing), Public Information (convened by Jeff Nordensson, Communications) and,
- Healthcare (convened jointly by Sean Elliot, UA and Doug Spegman, El Rio Community Health Center).

Topics to be covered by the work groups include identification of specific needs in the area of training, screening, infection control practices, personal protective equipment, and messaging. Participants identified the work group they wanted to attend and the conveners in collaboration with the Health Department were charged with the meeting logistics. For all groups either I or a designee of the Health Department will be present to provide content expertise, continuity and coordination. To support this effort, Health Department Emergency Preparedness staff, in collaboration with Communications, have begun to develop a communication infrastructure to support these works group. This will include a dedicated web page, a document sharing site, and a dedicated email. Brief workgroup updates are included in Attachments 2 and 3.

At this time 3 of the 5 groups have begun their work, one will meet tomorrow morning and the fifth one will meet on Monday.

Finally as you know yesterday I was tapped by the Governor to serve on her Council on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response. This group is charged with developing and coordinating Arizona's response to the threat posed by EVD and other emerging infections. My goal in accepting this appointment is to ensure that Pima County has the best and most timely access to the plans and

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other work products from this group in order to be able to continue to mount the most robust response possible.

To be clear, the threat posed by EVD to this community is very low. This assessment is based on the very low number of travelers from the affected countries in West Africa that arrive in this jurisdiction. The more likely scenario for exposure in Pima County is a returning health care provider who may have had contact with an infected and ill individual, and who subsequently develops a non-specific viral presentation. We also must be mindful of the potential implications of the EVD threat on events that draw international visitors, such as the Gem Show. We have to prepare for such a scenario in a way that protects the health and well-being of Pima County residents, without creating an unwelcome or hostile environment for our visitors. Our planning will continue to focus on developing jurisdiction wide strategies that would identify and contain an individual at risk for EVD, regardless of where they present, and conduct a controlled and safe transport of the individual to an appropriate facility for supportive care.

I will provide an update immediately should my assessment of the threat level be revised.

C: Mike Hein, Director – Emergency Management
Louie Valenzuela, Manager – Public Health Emergency Preparedness

ATTACHMENT 1

12:00

Overview

Purpose: To bring partners from across the jurisdiction to plan for the unlikely of an EBV case or high risk exposure in Pima County.

Expected Outcome: Identify teams that will be responsible for action plans: Public Safety/First Response; Hospitals/Ambulatory Care Settings; Emergency Management; Schools/Public Institutions; Public Information

Francisco Garcia, MD, MPH, Director & Chief Medical Officer, Pima County

12:10

Introductions

Name and Role/Responsibility

All

12:20

Ebola 101

Michael Acoba, DVM, PCHD Epidemiology Program Manager

12:35

EBV Screening Strategies (Detect)

- Ambulatory setting
- Emergency room and Hospital setting
- First Responders
- PSAPs

Doug Spegman, MD, MHS, Chief Medical Officer, El Rio Health Center

12:50

Infection Control Practices (Prevent)

- Hospital and Emergency Room settings
- Ambulatory settings
- Public accommodation settings

Sean Elliot, MD, Professor of Pediatrics

13:20

Response Planning (Respond)

- Hospital coordination
- First Responders
- PSAP
- Disposal & Decontamination

Mike Hein, Pima County Emergency Operations Manager

Louie Valenzuela, MPA, PCHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness

13:30

Assignments and Adjournment

All

ATTACHMENT 2

October 16, 2014 EVD Planning Meeting Invited and Attended List

PC Health
PC Emergency Management
PC Behavioral Health
PC Attorney's Office
PC Communications
PC Superintendent of Schools
PC Sherriff's Department
Tucson Fire
Carondelet Health Network
SE Coalition for Healthcare Emergency
Green Valley Fire
Tucson Medical Center
Tucson Police
UA Health Network
El Rio Health Center
Town of Marana
Town of Sahuarita
Tohono O'odham Nation
Oro Valley Police
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Northwest Fire
American Red Cross
Southwest Ambulance Service
Metropolitan Education Commission
Drexel Heights Fire
Public Safety Answering Points
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Tucson Airport Authority
Superintendents Collaborative
Southern AZ VA

Invited but did not attend

Northwest Hospital
Carondelet Health Network

ATTACHMENT 3

Emergency Management Workgroup

This group met on October 20 at the PC EOC. The group distributed responsibilities to sub-groups of members with the subject matter expertise best qualified to address concerns and questions the Health Department has highlighted. The five sub-groups are Utilities, Quarantine/Waste Disposal, Lab and Other Logistical Support, Animal Care, and Mass Transit. The deliverables of these groups are to identify gaps and resource needs, provide a strategy for overcoming the challenges identified, and developing an alert notification process to be used for their group.

First Responder and Public Safety Workgroup

This group met on October 21 at the Central Tucson Fire Station. This group has also agreed to split into sub-groups, with representatives from multiple agencies working on: 911 screening and hospital notification, Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines and Training, Quarantine/Isolation Enforcement, and Policy Development. Each of these groups will be working on developing guidelines that can be used by all of the first response and dispatch agencies.

Schools and Public Institutions Workgroup

This group met on October 21 at the Abrams Public Health Center. Subgroups of this sector include a message development group for parents and children, a training and education group for school health workers, home visiting programs and other social service types of programs. This group is also working on PPE guidelines and guidance resources for schools and other public institutions.

Public Information Workgroup

This group will be meeting October 23 in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room. Issues and proposed sub-groups for this sector include public awareness, pre-prepared messaging formats for public communications (releases, tweets, Facebook posts, etc.), action plans for public communications covering initial onset and status updates, and, mechanisms for information sharing between agencies.

Hospital and Ambulatory Care Workgroup

This group will be meeting October 27 at the Abrams Public Health Center. This meeting will include members from numerous hospitals, clinical and ambulatory care agencies who will be working on guidelines, plans, and procedures for healthcare providers. Areas of high importance in this sector are alerting and notification, infection control, PPE use, patient management, transfer of care, and specimen collection.