



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Scott Walker, Governor
Kitty Rhoades, Secretary

Ebola Situation Report

December 4, 2014

Overview

- There are no Ebola cases in Wisconsin at this time.
- As of December 4, 2014, six people in Wisconsin currently meet the criteria for Ebola surveillance by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). DHS has monitored a total of 68 people, two of whom have left the state, and 60 of whom have passed the 21-day incubation period for Ebola and no longer require monitoring.
- CDC notifies DHS of all individuals traveling from the affected West African countries to Wisconsin, and DHS notifies the local public health agencies (LPHAs) where those individuals reside. These LPHAs are in daily communication with the travelers and are checking for the presence of fever or other symptoms. This active monitoring ensures that if these individuals become ill, they can be rapidly isolated and evaluated.
- In the event Ebola is diagnosed in the state, DHS will work with partners and the three designated health systems to care for patients, ensuring that each patient receives the best care while protecting healthcare workers and the general public.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) released that the death toll from Ebola in West Africa topped 6,000 on December 3, 2014. 17,111 confirmed, suspected or probable cases have been reported in Ebola-affected countries. WHO also stated that Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the three main countries still impacted by the outbreak, have achieved the national capacities to isolate 70% of their patients and safely bury 70% of those who die of Ebola. The report noted, however, that variations in local capacities mean that some areas are still unable to contain the disease.

What the Department of Health Services (DHS) is doing to prepare

- On December 1, 2014, CDC announced that 35 hospitals facilities around the country had been evaluated and found to have the staff, equipment and training to care for Ebola patients. The designated Category 1 hospitals in Wisconsin—Children’s Hospital, Froedtert Hospital, the Medical College of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin Hospital and the American Family Children’s Hospital—were included on this list.
- Hospitals have been asked to self-identify as Category 2 or 3 facilities no later than Friday, December 5, 2014.
- Pete Shult, PhD, Director of the Communicable Disease Division of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene presented on DHS’ regular Ebola webcast series on December 2, 2014. Dr. Shult discussed the lab’s ability to conduct Ebola testing on specimens and the recent guidance distributed to Wisconsin

response partners about this testing. A recording of this webcast and other previous presentations can be found at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebolawebcasts.htm>.

- The next weekly webcast for Wisconsin's Ebola response will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 2:00pm. This webcast can be accessed at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebolawebcasts.htm>.
- DHS continues to assist all partners by receiving, tracking, and disseminating the most up to date guidance from other state and federal partners. Visit the DHS Ebola website for more information: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebola.htm>.