



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Office of the Mayor

October 29, 2014

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EBOLA PREPAREDNESS UPDATE #2

In an effort to be proactive in the face of the potential threat posed by Ebola virus disease (EVD), the Stamford Department of Health & Social Services will be conducting “active monitoring” three times a day on any person who has traveled from Liberia, Guinea, or Sierra Leone and has entered the City of Stamford. According to Anne Fountain, Director of Health and Social Services for the City of Stamford, “Our aim is to be able to quickly identify individuals with any symptoms so they can access medical intervention as early as possible and to stop the spread of disease in the community.” To be proactive and precautionous, towns and cities across Connecticut are implementing active monitoring of travelers returning back to Connecticut from one of the affected countries in Western Africa (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia).

There has not been a case of EVD in Connecticut, but in response to the epidemic of the Ebola virus disease in multiple western African countries and to prevent transmission of disease in Connecticut, on October 7, 2014, Governor Malloy passed a declaration of public health emergency, authorizing the Commissioner of Public Health to order the isolation (of those who are sick) or quarantine (of those who are not sick) of any individuals or group of individuals whom she believes to have been exposed to, infected with, or at risk of exposing others to the EVD for 21 days.

Upon arriving into U.S. airports, travelers will receive a CARE (Check And Report Ebola) kit which will include a tracking log, contact numbers of state health departments, information on Ebola and a thermometer to monitor for fever. Travelers coming back from the affected countries will be asked to carry out a daily self-check for fever (2-3 times a day) and other symptoms. The Stamford Department of Health will “contact individuals to monitor their results.”

Mayor David Martin has convened regular meetings with the Health Department, Emergency Management Director, Police Department, Fire Department, Stamford EMS and Stamford Hospital. “We are focused on maintaining the safety of our residents and health care workers and ensuring that all potentially exposed individuals are cared for properly,” said Mayor Martin.

The Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, Ted Jankowski, has coordinated citywide briefings and trainings (at least once a week) to prepare the City to respond to individuals

arriving to Stamford with EVD or EVD exposure. “The health and safety of our residents, first responders and healthcare workers is a priority. We are meeting regularly and performing exercises to ensure a seamless, coordinated response across all agencies including Stamford Hospital in addressing this serious public health threat.” The following activities are taking place regularly:

- The City of Stamford, in coordination with Stamford Hospital, has conducted weekly trainings, including a functional exercise, to prepare all City agencies to respond to EVD.
- Stamford Hospital and Stamford EMS have participated in the Governor’s mandated Ebola response drills and are following Connecticut Department of Public Health recommendations to have protocols in place for the care and transport of any confirmed or at-risk patients and to be ready to provide specialized care.
- Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols have been updated to insure appropriate patient response and responder safety.
- The Stamford Department of Health & Social Services has developed protocols to actively monitor travelers from affected countries returning to Stamford and provide information to the public. They have worked with the Stamford Hospital in establishing protocols for community provider reporting of Ebola. A recorded information line has been provided to the public for up to date Ebola virus disease information (203-977-4369). Information has also been provided on the City’s website and Facebook page.
- Stamford emergency response agencies (Police, Fire, EMS, and Health) are stockpiling and providing refresher training to staff on personal protective equipment.

Information on Ebola Virus Disease:

You can only get Ebola from:

- Touching the blood or bodily fluids of a person who is sick with or has died of Ebola.
- Touching contaminated objects, like needles.
- Touching infected animals, their blood or other bodily fluids, or their meat.

There are no confirmed cases of Ebola in Connecticut. The outbreak in West Africa is currently limited to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In order to be considered to possibly have Ebola, a person must have:

- Recently traveled to Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone
 - Or been in contact with a person who is sick with Ebola
- and**
- Become sick with symptoms suggestive of Ebola

Early symptoms of Ebola include:

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Headache
- Stomach pain
- Muscle pain
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising

If you think that you or someone you know may be sick with Ebola, call your health care provider for advice and direction

For more information, call the Stamford Department of Health Ebola Information Line 203-977-4369. Visit the City of Stamford Website: www.StamfordCt.Gov, or *the CDC website:* www.CDC.gov/Ebola

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