

MD Responds MRC

Ebola Virus Briefing – October 17, 2014

****To date, there have been no cases of Ebola acquired in Maryland.
The risk of acquiring Ebola in Maryland is extremely low.****

What is Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene doing?

In September 2014, Secretary Sharfstein issued an order requiring communication and coordination between health care providers and local health departments on all suspected cases of Ebola. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) has one of 13 labs authorized by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to test for Ebola. DHMH has taken these steps:

1. **Surveillance/Disease Reporting** – Ebola is a reportable condition. Providers and labs are required to report all suspected cases immediately.
2. **24/7 Possible Case Investigation and Response** – DHMH and local health departments have a 24/7 system to respond to and investigate possible Ebola cases and to monitor that appropriate isolation is in place while an assessment is underway.
3. **Provision of Infection Prevention Guidance to Healthcare Providers** – Guidance, including how to properly isolate a suspected patient and appropriate personal protective equipment for health care workers and others, has been disseminated to:
 - a. hospital emergency departments;
 - b. hospital infection prevention officials;
 - c. nursing homes/long-term care facilities;
 - d. clinical laboratories; and
 - e. general health care providers
4. **Development of Ebola Lab Testing Capacity** – DHMH Laboratories Administration has the capacity to test for Ebola.
5. **Coordination/communication with other states and CDC** – DHMH participates in regular Ebola-related calls and webinars with other states and with CDC (including the Dulles/BWI CDC Quarantine Station) to ensure up-to-date and coordinated responses.

What is the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps doing?

Currently, to plan for emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola, the Maryland Responds MRC is focusing on promoting health information. If you could help us disseminate these resources to your professional and social networks, we would greatly appreciate your support.

- To learn about the current Ebola situation in Maryland, visit <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ebola>.
- For more Ebola information, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>.
- Review your family emergency communications plan and emergency supply kits for homes and vehicles. For general emergency preparedness fact sheets (also translated into multiple languages), visit: <http://bit.ly/OPR-factsheets>.

In the future, if Maryland Responds MRC volunteer assistance is requested, you will be notified through the usual Maryland Responds notification procedures. Please take this time to log in to your volunteer profile and ensure your contact information is up-to-date: <https://mdresponds.dhmh.maryland.gov/>.



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