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Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Preparation in New Hampshire: Update #4

Key Points and Recommendations:

1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Department of Homeland Security have taken the West African country of Mali off the list of Ebola affected countries requiring enhanced traveler screening:
<http://www.dhs.gov/news/2015/01/05/enhanced-airport-entry-screening-end-travelers-mali-united-states>
2. Travelers from Mali are no longer required to undergo screening upon arrival to the United States, and hospitals and healthcare facilities in New Hampshire no longer need to screen patients for travel from Mali.
3. All healthcare facilities and providers should continue to screen patients for travel from Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia. DPHS will update its guidance to reflect this change. These resources can be accessed at:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/ebola/clinicians.htm>

Background

The Ebola epidemic continues in the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia with a total of more than 20,000 suspect, probable, or confirmed Ebola cases, including more than 8,000 deaths. The case fatality rate for those patients with a known outcome is estimated to be around 70%, which is consistent with past outbreaks of *Zaire ebolavirus*. The weekly incidence of new Ebola cases has been fluctuating in Guinea, declining in Liberia, and slowing in Sierra Leone, although transmission remains intense in Sierra Leone with more than double the number of new cases identified compared to Guinea and Liberia combined in the last reported week. International efforts to control the outbreak are ongoing. Regarding the West African country of Mali, there were a total of eight EVD cases, and the last case tested negative for the virus on December 6th. There is currently no known case of EVD in Mali.

Therefore, as of January 6, 2015, the United States is no longer performing enhanced screening of travelers from Mali. Enhanced screening continues for travelers coming into the U.S. from Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. The New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) continues to screen and monitor for 21 days all travelers from these three affected countries whose end destination is in New Hampshire. All hospitals and healthcare facilities should continue to be prepared to identify, isolate, and inform NH DPHS of any suspect EVD patients, although the likelihood that a suspect EVD patient will arrive unannounced to a local healthcare facility remains very small.

Please see the NH DPHS Ebola website for additional information and past updates:
<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dphs/cdcs/ebola/clinicians.htm>

Additional Information

If you have questions about the New Hampshire's Ebola preparedness, or wish to report a suspect case of Ebola virus disease, please call 603-271-4496 (after hours 603-271-5300).

Further CDC Ebola information can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300).

To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, contact Denise Krol at 603-271-4596 or email Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us

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From: Benjamin Chan, MD – State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

Attachments: None

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