

Ebola

Idaho Ebola Preparedness Weekly Update



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

For the Week of November 3 through 7, 2014

Idaho public health officials are closely monitoring Ebola activity worldwide, while simultaneously preparing for a possible suspect or confirmed case of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Idaho. We will post weekly updates at www.ebola.idaho.gov every Friday or Monday until further notice.

Current Worldwide 2014 Ebola Outbreak Information

As of November 7, 2014

Total cases: 13,268

Total laboratory-confirmed cases: 8,168

Total deaths: 4,960

Case Counts in Countries with Widespread Transmission – Reported as of November 7, 2014

Guinea	1760	1479	1054
Liberia	6919	2514	2766
Sierra Leone	4862	4149	1130
Total	13241	8142	4950

Case Counts in the United States– Reported as of November 7, 2014

Idaho	0	0	0
All Other States	4	4	1
Total	4	4	1

Source: www.cdc.gov/Ebola

Highlights of Ebola Preparedness Activities in Idaho

During the week of November 3 through 7, the following Ebola preparedness activities took place in Idaho:

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare	
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff facilitated a meeting on Ebola waste stream management including transportation and disposal. Staff facilitated a conference call with Public Health District Directors to obtain Ebola related situational awareness from the State of Idaho. Staff facilitated a meeting of the Department of Health and Welfare Operations Center Command and General staff to review and edit the <i>Draft Ebola Immediate Action Timeline</i>.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff continues to receive and respond to calls from healthcare providers who have questions about evaluation of patients for Ebola virus disease. An Idaho Airline Traveler Locating Form (to hand out to persons on a flight landing in Idaho if a traveler on the flight was ill and being evaluated for possible Ebola virus disease), and an Idaho Airline Traveler Information Sheet (to hand out to persons completing the above form) were provided to Public Health District Epidemiology Supervisors for modification and use by their Districts. The document "Interim Idaho Public Health Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Asymptomatic Persons with Potential Ebola Virus Exposure" was posted at www.ebola.idaho.gov. Staff received information from the American Red Cross (ARC) on the assistance they would be able to offer in response to an Ebola patient in Idaho. In particular, ARC could provide mental health support to impacted families (remotely if the family is quarantined or isolated) as well as disaster mental health assistance or support to any local responders as needed.

Panhandle Health District – PHD1	
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met with first receivers and first responders in one of the counties to discuss Ebola preparedness.
Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted a tabletop exercise.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panhandle Health District situational report was issued to key stakeholders on 10/31/2014. A public health update was issued district wide on 11/4/2014. The Panhandle Health District is in regular contact with the hospitals and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies throughout their district, providing them the latest guidance from Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and sharing best practices.
Other Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Panhandle Health District has tested its call center technology to ensure it is able to be quickly activated in the event that the number of calls about Ebola from the community overwhelms the current process for answering those calls. The Panhandle Health District's Public Information Officer (PIO) has developed a dark site for the District's main website that can be activated if a possible Ebola infected person is identified in North Idaho. This website has additional information for educating the community on Ebola and the actions PHD1 is taking to protect the community.

Public Health – Idaho North Central District – PHD2	
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ebola discussion with North Central Healthcare Coalition.
Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latah County Tabletop Exercise.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emails were distributed to appropriate healthcare coalition members with pertinent information from the CDC and Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

Southwest Health District – PHD3	
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in a monthly PIO conference call on 11/4/14 regarding Ebola preparation. Topics discussed: pertinent web pages, Virtual Joint Information Centers (JICs), and the PIER team. PIO participated in a conference call with the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC) which included information presented by the CDC. The SWDH PIO shared information discussed during the conference call with community partners in PHD3 and PHD4.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 11/6/2014, PHD3 assisted a local hospital in reviewing their Ebola Response plan prior to a mock

	Ebola training exercise held the same day.
Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 11/6/2014, PHD3 participated in a mock Ebola training exercise with a local hospital.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended IDHW/PHD Director conference call on 11/7/14. On 11/6/14, Epi staff participated in the CDC State Coordination Task Force Webinar to discuss a strategy for ensuring hospital readiness for treating Ebola patients. This webinar was for hospitals, public health entities, and healthcare officials. Attended meetings with regional hospitals which focused on reporting, infection prevention activities and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Contacted all district disaster cleanup/restoration companies in our region to determine if they would be willing to participate in any cleanup opportunities related to Ebola in our communities. Four companies stated they would not collaborate with us in this, while two are still making a determination as to their willingness to partner with us in this endeavor.
Other Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted an inventory of PPE and developed a tracking system to ensure amounts and sizes of PPE will be tracked and ordered should it be needed. SWDH staff also researched other Ebola related PPE to ensure a supplier contact and ordering information should it be needed.

Central District Health Department – PHD4	
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 11/5/2014, PHD4 participated in a coordination meeting with Boise School District’s nursing, security, and administration departments. CDHD attendees included PIO, Epi, and PHP staff. Participated in a statewide monthly PIO conference call on 11/4/2014. Ebola preparedness and coordination were discussed among other topics. Participated in a national call with Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs) on Ebola preparedness and response. The conference call was facilitated by ASPR and CDC. The purpose of the national call was to discuss how HCCs can be involved in Ebola planning and response in their communities.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared information via email with Boise and West Ada School Districts regarding CDC Ebola resources. In coordination with Southwest Health District, sent email to the virtual JIC community partners list regarding new CDC resources.

South Central Public Health District – PHD5	
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consulted with the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) Refugee Center and regional hospital on countries of origin for refugees and medical screening processes. Shared a form to be used along with the determination algorithm from CDC.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCPHD Public Health Alerts. Facebook post and boost. On 11/7/2014, shared information with regional healthcare coalition members regarding the national call.

Southeastern Idaho Public Health – PHD6	
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in PHD Directors call on Ebola.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in the national HCC and CDC private sector Ebola call.
Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed an in-house Ebola interview rehearsal with the Epi team.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated ambulatory care guidelines and residential decontamination guidelines and sent to the regional healthcare coalition, county emergency managers, and other community partners. Initiated pre-event planning with community partners in the: grocery, ground transport, housing, and cleaning industries.
Other Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed Airport Ebola preparedness and protocols with the PHD7 Planner. Discuss isolation and quarantine protocols with the Epi team. Completed Ebola interview rehearsals. Received one call from the public about an Ebola rumor. Follow-up indicated no threat.

Eastern Idaho Public Health District – PHD7	
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Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated Madison County planning meeting including county and city officials, local school districts, first responders, hospitals, and the university. • Participated in Southwest Wyoming Health Care Coalition call.
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algorithm designed for evaluating Ebola risk for EIPH clients/patrons. • On 11/5/2014, 11/6/2014 and 11/7/2014, the EIPH staff received education on the algorithm. • Participated in NACCHO Ebola update call. • Distributed CDC strategy for ensuring hospital readiness for treating Ebola patients.
Exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center Ebola preparedness drill.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email with links sent to Madison and Teton County's planning meeting attendees, with current Ebola information including CDC guidance, PPE training opportunities, pertinent websites, general education, and EIPH hotline number. • Completed point of entry posters in English & Spanish. • Posters distributed and hung at point of entry locations in the EIPH offices in all 8 counties. • EIPH Facebook and websites updated to provide community education. • Posted daily situational reports to the Intranet for staff members. • EIPH liaison daily communication and sharing of information with the regional health care coalition.