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Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Preparation in New Hampshire: Update #2

Key Points and Recommendations

1. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified Mali as an Ebola affected country with several confirmed cases identified. The CDC has issued a level 2 travel alert for Mali and will include travelers from Mali in the same 21 day monitoring protocols as those from Liberia, Sierre Leone and Guinea.
2. All healthcare providers and healthcare facilities should add Mali to the list of countries asked about (in additional to Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia) in the screening travel questions to identify patients presenting to care who are potentially at risk for EVD. 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 14,000 suspect, probable, or confirmed Ebola cases, including more than 5,000 deaths. The West African country of Mali shares a land border with Guinea, and the country identified its first case of EVD in a two year old girl traveling from Guinea on October 24th. No further cases have been identified related to this traveler, but on November 12th the World Health Organization (WHO) was notified of another cluster of Ebola cases in a separate part of Mali related to a second ill traveler from Guinea. To date there have been four total cases of EVD identified in Mali, including two healthcare workers who may have cared for the second ill traveler. More than 250 contacts of these sick travelers are currently being monitored in Mali for development of EVD.

On November 16th, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued a level 2 travel alert for Mali and added Mali to the list of Ebola-affected nations for which enhanced screening and monitoring measures will be taken. There are no direct flights from Mali to the United States. However, each day, a small number of travelers (averaging 15-20 per day) begin itineraries in Mali and transit through other countries en route to the United States. The majority of these travelers are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents returning home to America. DPHS will update its protocols for 21 day monitoring in accordance with this CDC recommendation. DPHS is also encouraging all healthcare providers and healthcare facilities to add Mali to the list of countries asked about (in additional to Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia) in the screening travel questions to identify patients presenting to care who are potentially at risk for EVD. DPHS will continue to monitor the Ebola situation and update preparedness and response partners as warranted.

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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Attachments: None

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