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COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

HEALTH DISASTER MANAGEMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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DATE: October 15, 2014

TO: ORANGE COUNTY EMS BASE HOSPITALS
ORANGE COUNTY EMS ALS PROVIDERS
ORANGE COUNTY AMBULANCE PROVIDERS

FROM: SAM J. STRATTON, MD, MPH
ORANGE COUNTY EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: EMS RELATED EBOLA UPDATE #2

OCEMS will be taking provider input and discussing EMS response plans for possible Ebola cases at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMCC Transportation Subcommittee. This meeting will be open to all OCEMS EMS providers and is scheduled for Weds, October 22 at 9:00 a.m. in room 433 of the Health Care Agency.

With the identification this morning of a second healthcare worker testing positive for Ebola in Dallas, it is important to emphasize the current Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for EMS management of potential Ebola exposure.

Recognition of potential Ebola infection is essential for control of the disease. EMS providers must be particularly careful to adhere to good universal precautions with the current threat of Ebola and upcoming influenza season.

Persons with the following symptoms and exposure risk factors should be considered at risk for having Ebola infection:

1. Having the symptoms of fever, severe headache, muscle aches, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained bleeding.
2. Travel exposure within 21 days or contact with someone who has recently traveled to the African countries of Liberia, Sierra Leon, or Guinea.

Persons with the above symptoms and exposure history should be isolated from others and managed using personal protective equipment that allows avoidance of exposure to body fluids

EMS providers must document the travel history of any patient with the above mentioned symptoms on their prehospital care report (PCR) and submit via OC-MEDS. OCEMS is issuing revised PCR templates and technical guidance to assist with implementing this change.

Current CDC minimum personal protection recommendations are for use of surgical gloves, fluid or impermeable gown, eye protection, and a facemask. In situations where body fluid (blood or otherwise) are visibly present and the patient meets the criteria for suspected Ebola as outlined above, additional protection is recommended including shoe and leg covering (Level C protective equipment).

At the present time, patients being transported from the field should be routed to the most appropriate receiving facility with notification of the facility of the possibility of an infected patient made prior to arrival.

All suspected Ebola patients in Orange County must be reported to the Orange County Health Care Agency at (714) 834-8180.

CC: HCA HDM Program Manager
OCEMS Program Administrator
OCEMS ALS Coordinator
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