

December 3, 2014

As part of the ongoing Ebola response planning, the New York State Department of Health (DOH) is providing the following guidance documents to Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies, Program Agencies, Regional EMS Councils and EMS Education Sponsors, in an effort to prepare the health care infrastructure for potential Ebola cases.

At this time, there are **no confirmed cases of Ebola in New York State**. This response, however, may extend for many months, and all providers should continue their planning activities. Included are:

1. The Commissioner's Order and the Specifications Required Under the Commissioner's Order
http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola/docs/commissioner_order.pdf
http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola/commissioners_orders_q_and_a.htm
2. New York State Department of Health Pre-Hospital Screening Guide –EMS providers should use this guide when assessing a patient. The DOH has also provided *the Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for Management of Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Virus Disease in the United States* to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) throughout New York State.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) EMS Checklist –Agencies can use this checklist to guide them through Ebola response planning.
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ems-checklist-ebola-preparedness.pdf>
4. CDC Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance (10/20/2014) – This provides critical information on PPE and the appropriate donning and removal of PPE.
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/procedures-for-ppe.html>
5. Training and education material – A training outline has been provided. This outline is not meant to be an all-inclusive guide, but rather minimum content that should be covered. Agencies may opt to include additional information, especially since guidance will be updated as the response continues.
6. Additional guidance can be found on the DOH website at:
<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola>.

There is an area specific to EMS-related guidance in the lower left part of the screen. As information changes, DOH will post documents here and share them via existing distribution methods. Please contact the Bureau of EMS e-mail at NYSEMSebola@health.ny.gov and provide the agency name, agency code and the names and 24/7 contact information for each of the two (2) points of contact.

Safety is a priority. Please make sure that your EMS agency and providers are appropriately trained.

Sincerely,

Lee Burns
Director
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services