



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

SITUATION REPORT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor John R. Kasich

FROM: Ohio Emergency Operations Center

SUBJECT: Coordinated Response to Ebola Virus

DATE: November 6, 2014

This is the Summary Situation Report for this incident. This information is current as of 4:00 p.m.

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

On the morning of October 15th, 2014, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) learned that a Dallas-area nurse, Amber Vinson, who later tested positive for Ebola, arrived from Dallas at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport on October 10th on a Frontier Airlines flight for a visit in Summit County, and returned to Dallas on October 13th on another Frontier Airlines flight. ODH officials worked with Summit County Public Health officials to contact the nurse's family members and identify all those with whom the nurse may have had direct contact while in Ohio.

ODH also worked with U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) officials who, together with the airline, began identifying passengers on the nurse's flights. Throughout the incident, 164 Ohio area persons were identified as having had contact with the Dallas nurse, but none were identified as having had contact with bodily fluids while the patient was symptomatic. Three Ohioans were quarantined – one on their own initiative – during the 21-day monitoring period.

ODH was identified as the State's lead agency for this incident and the State Emergency Operations Center (State EOC) was activated at 7:00 p.m. on October 15th and remained activated and staffed 24-hours per day through November 4, 2014 – the close of the 21 day incubation period for initial contacts.

As of 11:59 p.m. on November 3rd, all Ohioans who were being monitored for Ebola symptoms after coming into contact with the Dallas-area healthcare worker during her visit to Summit County had passed the 21-day incubation period without exhibiting any symptoms were removed from monitoring.

Ohio had no confirmed cases of Ebola during the event response.

EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS

No emergency declarations were issued for this event.

COUNTY IMPACTS

Local Actions in Summit County – The Summit County EOC was activated at 4:00 p.m. on October 15th. At the height of the incident two people were quarantined and 39 people were monitored for symptoms in Summit County. One elementary school in the county was closed for one day at the beginning of the incident, but reopened the next day. The county monitored school absenteeism, activated a call center for concerned citizens, and coordinated information and resource support until the Summit County EOC closed on October 20th. Two people in Summit County were quarantined.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office developed a screening procedure/questionnaire for prisoners arriving to the Summit County jail, and they worked with the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to identify potential spaces and resources that may have been needed if an isolation or a monitoring situation arise.

Local Actions in Cuyahoga County – The Cuyahoga EMA supported the City of Cleveland as an Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) in their EOC beginning on October 15th. The Cleveland City EOC operated 12-hour shifts until October 31st, when they shifted to virtual operations. The Cleveland City EOC closed operations for this incident on November 4th. One person in Cuyahoga County was quarantined.

A small number of people were tracked in other counties, as well.

STATE-LEVEL ASSISTANCE BY EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION

ESF 5 – Emergency management/Information and Planning

ESF-5 activated in the EOC on October 15 to facilitate situational awareness, coordinate county and state conference calls and briefings, coordinate mission requests with affected counties and produce situation reports and briefing notes. Over the course of the activation twenty-nine missions were entered in WebEOC, and 12 EOC briefings and 11 county conference calls were conducted. Numerous other briefings and calls were also facilitated. ESF-5 personnel staffed the State EOC 24-hours-a-day until it closed at 5:00 p.m. on November 4th.

ESF 7 – Resource Support

ESF-7 activated in the State EOC on October 17th and worked with the Department of Administrative Services to identify sources and supply networks of personal protective equipment (PPE) to strengthen already-existing regional supply caches.

ESF-7 completed six missions in the following areas:

- Research on various types of PPE
- Availability and prices for ESF-8 partners

- Transportation mission coordination with ESF-1

ESF-7 was staffed with 14 individuals from various agencies, including The Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Ohio EMA, the Ohio Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Division of Emergency Medical Services, DPS's Administrative Section, and ODH.

ESF-7 coordinated with ESF-1 to pre-stage State Cache PPE in Akron to reduce the length of time that it would take to distribute PPE.

ESF-8 – Public Health and Medical Services

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) was the lead agency for the Ebola response and assigned epidemiological and administrative staff to support response operations in the State EOC.

Since October 18, 2014, ESF-8 completed 19 missions and is currently working two active missions: one long-term priority mission and one extended priority mission, both of which relate to requests for PPE training and guidance, PPE prepositioning and question regarding medical waste.

The following are response actions that ESF-8 participated in during the 21-day response:

- ESF-8 created an Ebola response daily timeline/workflow and a daily contact report process to account for those Ohioans who were being monitored because they had come in contact with the Dallas-area nurse during her visit to northern Ohio.
- ODH and the Governor's office prepared a controlling board hearing plan on necessary healthcare supplies such as personal protective equipment that was presented at the Controlling Board meeting on Monday, October 20, 2014.
- The Legal Workgroup worked with the Joint Information Center on updating law enforcement guidance and developed template language for letters to persons who might have come in contact with someone with Ebola.
- ODH posted an Ebola memo, talking points for schools and guidance documentation for emergency medical service providers, and developed and posted guidance for local health departments on tracking recent arrivals from countries affected by Ebola into the Ohio Public Health Communication System (OPHCS).
- ODH provided guidance to Ohio hospitals to assist them in conducting hospital drills.
- The ESF-8 staff assembled a workgroup with the Northeast and Northeast Central Regional Hospital Coordinators to clarify anticipated needs for PPE.
- ODH continues its efforts to secure Ebola-appropriate PPE and PPE continues to arrive at the ODH warehouse daily.

ESF 13 – Law Enforcement

The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) worked with ODH and the Ohio National Guard's 52d Civil Support Team to develop and test a plan for securing sample transportation coolers and transporting Ebola samples to the ODH lab in Reynoldsburg if that support was needed. It was determined that the 52d CST would handle relays of samples within 50 miles of Columbus and that OSHP would handle the rest of the state.

ESF 15 – Emergency Public Information and External Affairs

The State Joint Information Center (JIC) activated at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 15th and began responding to media inquiries. A 24-hour call center for the general public was activated by 7:00 p.m. that evening in an effort to provide Ohioans with immediate credible information regarding Ebola. Public health staff remained the subject matter experts for both the JIC and the call center to ensure accurate and credible information was being provided.

During the next two weeks, the JIC was staffed with communication professionals from various state agencies. The JIC answered more than 100 calls during this time period, in addition to issuing 30 media releases (to include a daily contact report) and engaging in social media.

Calls into the Joint Information Center ranged across a variety of topics related to public health, Ebola and the state of Ohio. There were six trends that were identified during this analysis. Those six topics are listed below.

1. The State of Ohio's Ebola Preparedness & Protocols
2. On-camera interviews with the Subject Matter Expert- Dr. Mary DiOrio
3. General Inquiry & Call Center update
4. Hospital drills and PPE
5. Contact Tracing
6. CDC Numbers and Timeline of notification

On October 15th, the Ohio Department of Health activated a 24-hour call center to answer Ohioans' questions about Ebola and address the recent events that occurred in Ohio in an effort to ensure that Ohioans received accurate and timely information. This call center was very successful in providing clear information to residents during a time when fear was highest and rumors were prevalent. Over the course of its activation, the call center fielded more than 2,000 calls before it was deactivated on November 4th.

Peak calls were on October 16th, the first full day of the call center's activation. Call trends included:

- General inquires about Ebola
- Questions regarding air travel
- Calls from schools and employers concerned about contacts
- Question about blood bank supplies

A detailed report of the calls can be obtained from the Ohio Department of Health Public Affairs Office.

The ODH website became the clearing house for Ebola fact sheets and guidance documents. The website became the source for information that was made available to the public, media, and stakeholders.

Twitter became the main social media platform used to communicate and monitor information about Ebola. Twitter hashtags for this event was #EbolainCleveland, #Ebola, #knowthefacts

Before this event impacted Ohio, the CDC held weekly chats on Twitter, allaying fears, and building their site and subject matter experts as credible sources

Websites promoted by the JIC:

www.odh.ohio.gov

www.cdc.gov

The Joint Information Center went from full-time staffing in the State's Emergency Operations Center to a virtual JIC on Saturday, October 25th. At that point, calls to the JIC were managed by the Ohio Department of Health Public Affairs Office, which continues to respond to inquiries and distribute press releases.

SITREP DATA/BRIEFING

This is the final Situation Report for this incident. The nineteen incident Situation Reports, daily county briefing conference call notes and other reports that have been issued for this incident are available via WebEOC. There will be no further Situation Briefings for this incident.

HOURS OF OPERATION

State EOC operations for this incident ended at 5:00 p.m. on November 4, 2014.