



Advisory 15-15: Travel Screening for Ebola Virus Disease

To: All Providers and Agencies

Date: December 30, 2015

The World Health Organization declared Guinea free of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) as of December 29, 2015. Given the significant wane in EVD earlier this year and this new announcement, the New York State Department of Health will no longer be monitoring travelers from Africa from this point forward.

Therefore, **effective immediately, 911 Centers and EMS providers are no longer required to routinely inquire on a callers/patients travel history.**

Particularly as we enter flu season, every patient should still be assessed for the presence of cough, fever, or flu-like symptoms and appropriate PPE precautions taken accordingly. Those with fever, cough, or flu-like symptoms should still be asked about any recent travel, as such information is an important part of their history and your risk stratification for any emerging infectious diseases.

The State Health Commissioner's Orders from October 2014 are still in place, however they have been subsequently modified such that training is required at the time of hire and then on an annual, and not monthly basis (see Attached). All other aspects of the Commissioner's Order remain in place.

With any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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To: All NYS Certified Ambulance & Advanced Life Support First Response Services
From: Bureau of EMS & Trauma Systems
Re: Update to the Commissioner's Order of October 16, 2014 Regarding Ebola Virus Disease
Date: December 21, 2015

On December 18, 2015 the NYS Department of Health issued a "Health Advisory", which updates the Commissioner's October 16, 2014 order regarding Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

For most NYS ambulance and ALSFR services, the following recommendations apply:

- Conduct PPE training in donning and doffing, upon hire, and at least every 12-months thereafter.
- The training should consist of actual donning and doffing that is observed by qualified trainers. Lectures, video training, or other methods should not be substituted.
- The EMS agency may limit the number of personnel trained, so long as adequate coverage is available at all times, and at all locations, where a patient with confirmed or suspected EVD may be encountered. For most EMS agencies, this means that all pre-hospital personnel should be trained.
- EMS agencies should have a plan in place for implementing Just in Time (JIT) training, should the Commissioner of Health determine that there is an increased threat of encountering a patient with confirmed or suspected EVD.
- EMS agencies that serve hospitals designated by the Commission of Health as "Ebola Assessment and/or Ebola Treatment Hospitals" should conduct PPE donning and doffing training upon hire, at least every 6-months thereafter, and should also be prepared to engage in drills and other training and preparedness activities with the designated hospital(s) that they serve.

For additional reference, a copy of the December 18, 2015 NYS DOH Health Advisory is attached.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Daniel J. Clayton Deputy Director for Operations & Emergency Preparedness or Rich Brandt, Senior EMC Representative at 518-402-0996.