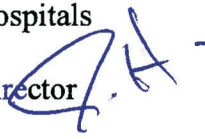




MEMORANDUM

TO: Local Health Departments and Hospitals

FROM: LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director 

DATE: October 27, 2014

RE: Illinois Department of Public Health- Isolation and Quarantine Review and October 24 Guidance Regarding Travelers from Ebola-Outbreak Affected Countries

This information is applicable to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and other diseases where isolation and quarantine may be necessary.

A. Background

Ebola was first discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Since then, outbreaks have appeared sporadically in Africa. The 2014 Ebola outbreak is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa. More information about EVD can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>.

At present there is no vaccine for this virus so control measures such as isolation and/or quarantine of ill persons and/or persons exposed to the virus would need to occur if the virus was introduced in the United States. Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) advises local health departments to review IDPH isolation and quarantine rules and their protocols for implementing isolation or quarantine orders.

1. *Isolation* is the physical separation and confinement of an individual or groups of individuals who are infected or reasonably believed to be infected with a contagious or possibly contagious disease from non-isolated individuals, to prevent or limit the transmission of the disease to non- isolated individuals.
2. *Quarantine* is the physical separation and confinement of an individual or groups of individuals who are or may have been exposed to a contagious disease or possibly contagious disease and who do not show signs or symptoms.

B. Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

The legal authority for isolation, quarantine, closure and other public health measures can be found in the Department of Public Health Act ("DPH Act") (20 ILCS 2305), the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law ("DPH Powers and Duties Law") (20 ILCS 2310/2310-15), and the Control of Communicable Diseases Code ("CD Code")(77 Ill. Adm. Code 690). Section

2 of the DPH Act provides that IDPH has the supreme authority in matters of isolation and quarantine, and may declare and enforce quarantine and isolation when none exists, and modify or relax when it has been instituted. Section 15 of the Powers and Duties Law authorizes IDPH to delegate its duties to certified local health departments. IDPH has explicitly delegated its authority to order isolation, quarantine, closure and the other public health measures to certified local health departments and has set out procedures for the implementation of those public health measures Subpart I of the CD Code.

Certified local health departments have the authority to institute disease control and contamination measures, including physical examination, testing, treatment isolation, quarantine, or other measures considered necessary. All local boards of health, health authorities and officers, police officers, sheriffs and all other officers and employees of the State or any locality are required to enforce orders of isolation or quarantine.

1. Certified local health departments should review their current policies and plans to prepare for the possibility that individuals may need to be isolated or quarantined. In consultation with other entities the certified health department deems necessary (e.g. local health care providers, health facilities, emergency management personnel, law enforcement agencies, schools, the local judicial system) the certified local health department should establish plans, policies, and procedures for instituting and maintaining emergency measures necessary to prevent the spread of disease. The following areas should be addressed in planning:
 - a. Communications and collaboration with multiple jurisdictions as needed.
 - b. Responsibility for logistics, monitoring and cost in situations where a resident of one jurisdiction may need to be isolated or quarantined in a facility in another jurisdiction.
 - c. Provision of interpreter and translation services if needed.
 - d. Provision of adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and communication with outside persons.

2. It is the responsibility of the local health department to establish procedures for collaborating with other local health departments in order to implement an isolation order for an individual patient that requires isolation or quarantine, but is located in a jurisdiction without appropriate facilities to house the individual (e.g. the jurisdiction does not have a hospital and the individual requires isolation in a hospital). The following areas should be addressed in planning:
 - a. Communications and collaboration with multiple jurisdictions as needed.
 - b. Responsibility for logistics, monitoring and cost in situations where a resident of one jurisdiction may need to be isolated or quarantined in a facility in another jurisdiction.
 - c. Provision of interpreter and translation services if needed.
 - d. Provision of adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and communication with outside persons.

3. Whenever an order of isolation or quarantine is being considered by a certified local health department, the following steps should be included:
 - a. Except in emergency situations where an immediate verbal order is necessary, notify IDPH Communicable Disease Section prior to issuing an order for isolation or quarantine.
 - b. In consultation with IDPH, identify the least restrictive means of controlling transmission of the disease. With the very narrow exceptions outlined below, isolation or quarantine orders should be obtained only after documented efforts to obtain voluntary compliance have failed.

- c. Determine where the individual will be isolated or quarantined e.g. home, health care facility.
- d. Determine the manner and frequency of monitoring the individual for compliance with the order and for the continued need for the restriction.
- e. Determine the criteria for release from isolation or quarantine.
- f. Notify IDPH by telephone within three hours after issuance of an order for isolation or quarantine.

IDPH issued guidance on Friday, October 24th(attached), clarifying risk categories and restrictions for travelers from Ebola-Outbreak Affected Countries, and asymptomatic contacts of EVD patients (including health care workers). Beginning October 24th, these individuals that fall within the definition of “high-risk” shall be subject to a mandatory (involuntary) quarantine. This quarantine shall confine the individual to a health care facility (when already admitted) or the individual’s residence/destination; whichever destination is appropriate and least restrictive.

This mandatory (involuntary) quarantine is to be issued by the certified local health department pursuant to the authority described in the DPH Act (20 ILCS 2305/2(c)). Within 48 hours of issuing a mandatory (involuntary) quarantine order for a high-risk individual, the certified local health department shall seek a court order pursuant to the terms of the DPH Act.

Please note this mandatory (involuntary) quarantine only applies to high-risk individuals, not to all returning travelers and not to all health care workers providing care for an individual with symptoms consistent with EVD.

Upon filing a petition requesting a court order, the certified local health department must serve a notice of the hearing to the person(s) being isolated or quarantined at least 24 hours before the hearing. Certified local health departments are encouraged to reach out to discuss these procedures with their State’s Attorney’s Offices. The county via the local State’s Attorney will be the entity seeking the court order, not the Department. Certified local health departments and local State’s Attorney’s Offices should be prepared in the event a court would require testimony from local, on-site medical personnel.

For individuals identified as having “some-risk,” the certified local health department shall issue a modified isolation or observation w/monitoring order with prohibited travel on public/commercial conveyance (including public transit) for 21 days. This order shall not require a court order unless the individual refuses to comply with the conditions set forth for modified isolation or observation/monitoring. Please refer to the attached October 24th guidance for additional information.

Please alert us to isolation or quarantine issues that may need further clarification.

If you have any questions during regular business hours, please contact Fredrick Echols, MD, IDPH Communicable Disease Section Chief at 217-782-2016 or Fred.Echols@illinois.gov

For afterhours assistance please contact the Illinois Department of Public Health Emergency Duty Officer at 217-782-7860