



DATE: November 12, 2014

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Diana T. Yu, MD, MSPH

SUBJECT: EBOLA UPDATE

Background and Summary:

The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa. Two imported cases, including one death, and two locally acquired cases in healthcare workers have been reported in the United States. There are no confirmed cases of Ebola in Washington state. The Center for Disease Control and states are taking a number of precautions to prevent the spread of Ebola within the United States.

I asked Board staff to review our Communicable disease rule (Chapter 246-100 WAC) and Notifiable Conditions rule (Chapter 246-101 WAC) to assure that the rules are clear and provide adequate information for communicable disease response. Staff, in consultation with others, concluded that the rules are sufficient to curtail further spread of the disease if there are confirmed case(s) in Washington. However, they identified a few potential administrative fixes that the Board may wish to address involving references to communicable disease manuals and CDC guidance.

I have invited Kathy Lofy, the Washington State Health Officer, to give us an update of what precautions the Department of Health is putting in place in partnership with local public health, hospitals, and others to prevent the spread of Ebola in Washington.

Recommended Board Actions:

***Motion:** The Board directs staff to prepare, for the Board's consideration, updates to the Board's communicable disease rule to assure references to communicable disease guidance is up to date.*

Staff Contact: Tara Wolff