



Date of Council Meeting: November 10, 2014

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Subject: Update on Ebola Preparedness

Staff Contact: Keith Markel, Deputy Town Manager
Joseph Price, Chief of Police

This informational memorandum outlines the steps taken by the Town in light of the threat of Ebola infection in the community. It is important to note that the County of Loudoun is the lead agency in this matter. Important public information is provided on the County's website with a direct link to this information on the Town website homepage.

Following the spread of Ebola in the western African nations of Sierra Leon, Liberia, and Guinea, and the transport of the disease to the United States, localities across the nation have implemented strategies to manage the disease if a case should be discovered in the community.

For the past several weeks, the Town of Leesburg and Loudoun County have increased educational opportunities and training for first responders and medical personnel. The Town's police department, utility operators and department directors have been educated on the basic issues of the disease, how it is spread, and the extremely limited risks posed to Town employees. On October 30, senior level County staff, including the County's Health Department Director and Director of the Office of Emergency Management briefed the Town Manager and other staff members on the County's response plans should a case be identified in Loudoun.

The most likely point of entry for the disease into the County would be through Dulles Airport. It should be noted that no direct flights arrive at Dulles from any of the three African nation hot-spots. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) has stated approximately 30-35 passengers come to Dulles each day from these nations. Most flights arriving at Dulles carrying these passengers originate in Belgium. These passengers are screened when they leave their African country of origin, and again in Belgium before flying to the United States. Upon arrival at Dulles, these passengers are screened for a third time. Screening involves monitoring for symptoms of Ebola, especially for a fever. Passengers are also asked about their exposure risk in their country of origin.

If a passenger presents symptoms consistent with Ebola, he or she will be transported to a receiving hospital, most likely Reston Hospital Center or another hospital in Fairfax County, for further observation and testing. Transportation will be provided by MWAA ambulance (Loudoun County EMS serves as a backup resource). The Centers for

Disease Control has evaluated the hospitals in the region and has determined that INOVA Lansdowne is appropriately designed and staffed to accept possible Ebola patients for observation and testing. If the patient has a high likelihood of infection, he or she would be transported to another facility for more specialized care. INOVA Leesburg would not receive any patients that appear to have Ebola because of facility limitations.

If a traveler arriving at Dulles is not showing symptoms of the infection, but is identified as a high risk based on possible exposure to the disease, they will be asked to quarantine themselves during the incubation period of 21 days. If they are traveling through Dulles to another destination, they will be prevented from taking the connecting flight and will be transported to their destination by private vehicle. If a traveler is not able to be transported to his or her final destination for the recommended 21-day quarantine period, the County has a facility where they can stay. The facility is located near Leesburg, but is not located within the Town limits. If the traveler is a local resident, they will be asked to go home and observe a self-quarantine. They will be given medical contact information to report any symptoms that may develop and County health department staff will monitor the individual daily.

If a mandatory home quarantine is ordered for a resident who presents a substantial risk to the community, police presence will be needed to secure the property. The Town has asked that Loudoun County provide the law enforcement resources needed to manage the quarantine, should one be issued within the Town limits.

Finally, any traveler arriving at Dulles Airport from Sierra Leone, Liberia or Guinea, showing no symptoms and reporting a low risk of exposure to Ebola, will be allowed to continue to their final destination, but will be monitored by health officials throughout the 21-day incubation period.

As shown through recent events, the mortality rates of this disease can be greatly reduced when the disease is identified early and treatment is administered. It is also believed that Ebola is not heavily contagious in the early stages of the disease when symptoms are less severe such as when there is only a low grade fever or head or stomach aches.

Town staff will update the Town Council if any new developments occur on this issue. Please contact Police Chief Price at (jprice@leesburgva.gov) or me (kmarkel@leesburgva.gov) with any questions you may have.

Attachment: None