EMS Policy Memorandum No. 2014-03

DATE: October 16, 2014 – Revised 10-20-14

TO: All Prehospital Personnel and Providers
Base Hospital Personnel
Emergency Department Physicians and Nurse Liaisons

FROM: Richard N. Buys, M.D., EMS Medical Director
Dan Burch, EMS Administrator

SUBJ.: Prehospital Ebola Response Guidance

The purpose of this memorandum is to supplement EMS Policy Memorandum 2014-02 providing additional guidance for prehospital care personnel in identifying, treating, transporting, and reporting a suspected Ebola patient presentation. It is the responsibility of all transport and non-transport providers to ensure that their personnel receive this information.

EMS patient assessment criteria for isolation/hospital notification:

1. Fever of greater than 38.6 °C 101.5 °F degrees Celsius or 100.4 °F degrees Fahrenheit, and additional symptoms such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage; and
2. Travel to West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone or other countries where EVD transmission has been reported by WHO) within 21 days (3 weeks) of symptom onset.

If both criteria are met:

- Use standard patient isolation procedures including contact and droplet precautions followed further assessment, treatment, and transport.
- Transport patient to hospital of their choice in accordance with EMS Policy No. 5201 Medical Patient Destination.
- Notify the receiving hospital of in advance as soon as possible to prepare to receive a possible/suspected Ebola patient.

If patient is not transported:

- Notify San Joaquin County Public Health Services by telephone prior to returning to service: Business Hours: (209) 468-3822 or After Hours (209) 468-6000.

When in question make base hospital contact.
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EMS CALL

Pt. meets both criteria below:
1. A fever greater than 100.4°F, and any additional symptoms such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage.
2. Has traveled to West Africa* within 21 days of symptom onset.

YES

Ensure use of standard, contact and droplet precautions

NO

Follow standard procedures

YES

Pt. refuses transport against medical advice or determination of death?

NO

Treat and Transport

Notify receiving hospital prior to arrival

Transfer care per hospital protocols

NO

Notify the EMS Agency Duty Officer by email emsdutyofficer@sjgov.org

Notify employer of suspected contact

Decon: Personnel, equip, and vehicle prior to returning to service

* Applicable West African counties: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone