Developing a Multi-Agency Support Plan for Individuals Under Quarantine for Ebola

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Acknowledgments

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Carol Helwig, MPH – Public Health
Nick Kell – Public Health
Lisa Widdekind – Public Health
Largest Ebola outbreak in history began March 2014 in West Africa
First Ebola case in US in Sept 2014
Controversy over quarantine
Local public health assigned to monitor travelers

U.S. Entry Screening for Ebola

**WHAT TO EXPECT when you arrive from Guinea, Sierra Leone, or Liberia**

After Passport Control, process may take 45 minutes or more.

1. **Health Screening**
   - Staff will
     - Take your temperature.
     - Ask questions about Ebola exposure and symptoms.
     - Some travelers will need more screening or medical evaluation. All others will go to step 2.

2. **CARE Kit Discussion**
   - If you are travelling from Guinea or Sierra Leone, the CARE Ambassador will explain how to monitor and report your temperature and symptoms for 21 days.
   - If you are travelling from Liberia, the CARE Ambassador will explain how to watch yourself for any symptoms of Ebola for 21 days.

3. **Continue Travel**

You can go to
- Baggage claim, then
- Your destination or connecting flight gate.
Boulder County prepared public health orders

- Quarantine
- Isolation
# Monitoring Differs by Risk Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Active Monitoring</th>
<th>Direct Active Monitoring</th>
<th>Isolation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low risk of exposure, no symptoms</td>
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<td>Symptom checks in-person - 21 days</td>
<td>Confirmed Ebola virus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirement</td>
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<td>Cared for in hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restriction</td>
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<td>Restricted to hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enforcement</td>
<td>Trust-based</td>
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<td>May require hospital security</td>
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# Support Plan for Some Risk Group

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Thoughtful planning needed to implement orders

“Equitable and ethical use of public health orders includes supporting and compensating persons who sacrifice their individual liberties and freedoms for public good.” – CDC
Purpose of Support Plan

• What are the needs of an individual in quarantine for 21 days?
• How can we facilitate compliance to quarantine?
• Who needs to be at the table?
• How can we plan in advance to help facilitate the process?
Step 1: Gained buy-in from leadership of trusted stakeholders

- Boulder County Housing and Human Services
- Boulder County Community Services Department
- Mental Health Partners
- Boulder County Public Health
Step 2: Identified multi-disciplinary contacts

- Emergency management planners
- Social worker
- Public health epidemiologist
- Public Information Officer (PIO)
Step 3: Met in-person and identified travelers’ needs
Step 4: Developed criteria for Support Plan

• **Scope**
  – Quarantine rather than isolation
  – Available to direct active monitoring

• **Eligibility**
  – Boulder County residents under quarantine
  – Family members may be eligible

• **Duration**
  – 21 days of quarantine only
Monitoring and controlled movement includes Support Plan

Support plan designated agency responsible for the following:

- Case management
- Mental health support
- Financial support
- Housing support
Plan required amendments and developing new documents

- Monitoring form
- Needs assessment
- Notification protocol
- Communication plan
- Evaluation
Continuous quality improvement

- Streamlined activation process
- Removed unnecessary meetings written into protocol
- Social worker became key contact
- Assessment was more conversational
Limitations and next steps

- Limited surge capacity
- Resource limitations of financial reimbursements for missed work
- Next steps include leveraging private and non-profit sector for donations such food, entertainment etc.
- Next steps to contact county commissioners to allocate more resources
Support plan useful for other communicable disease settings

- Utility in instances of measles, tuberculosis and other emerging diseases
- Movement towards all-hazard planning
Support plan may be required by law with public health orders

• Relationships in place to facilitate financial assistance, housing, food, education etc. in advance

• Builds upon core Emergency Management functions
In Conclusion

• Ebola fostered a better understanding of how to support our community

• Collaboration is key with multiple stakeholders

• Next steps include connecting additional partners and furthering MOUs
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Questions?

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