

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

Dear Ms. Norton

I have surveyed the ten hospitals listed below and am submitting the following responses as current answers to your seven questions as of today, Wednesday, October 29, 2014. As you know, all our hospitals are committed to following the science in responding to the Ebola outbreak and we are in constant communication with the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the District of Columbia Department of Health (DOH). Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or guidance.

1. Have protective equipment that meets Centers for Disease Control (CDC) standards

All referenced hospitals have protective equipment that meets CDC or DOH standards or guidance.

2. Have adequate supplies of the authorized full-body hazmat suits

All referenced hospitals have adequate supplies of appropriate hazmat suits on hand or on order, as specified by one or more of the Federal or District authorities.

3. Are engaging in continuous interactive training with personnel who are exposed to patients with infectious diseases

All referenced hospitals are engaged in training personnel exposed to patients with infectious diseases following all current guidelines and regulations.

4. Have a protocol in place to immediately screen and quarantine patients

All referenced hospitals have those protocols in place.

5. Have properly equipped isolation rooms

All referenced acute care hospitals (those with emergency rooms) have properly equipped isolation rooms or are in the process of developing or upgrading them.

6. Have trained non-medical personnel, such as ambulance personnel

All referenced hospitals have training in-place for non-medical personnel that is appropriate for their responsibilities.

7. Have protocols for possible transfers to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or elsewhere, should the hospital be unable to provide necessary care.

DOH has not issued guidance or standards for inter-hospital transfers of patients testing positive for Ebola. As indicated in our response to question number 4, above, our referenced hospitals have protocols in place for the screening and quarantining of patients testing positive for Ebola.

I want to close by informing you that our hospitals have testified before the Honorable Yvette Alexander, Chair of the District of Columbia Council's Committee on Health as recently as Friday, October 24, 2014 on each individual hospital's state of readiness. Within the past two weeks, the Director of DOH, Joxel Garcia, MD, has visited each hospital with his staff of epidemiologists and infection control specialists and reviewed each hospital's state of readiness. He then testified before the Council on Friday that each hospital was following all current protocols and guidance.

Responding to infectious diseases is always an evolving process as both the science and guidance becomes clearer. Our hospitals stand committed to enhancing our readiness and appreciate deeply the confidence in us expressed by Dr. Joxel Garcia and the Honorable Yvette Alexander.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Malson

bcc: DCHA Board of Directors & Medical Directors



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