



For Immediate Release
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Connecticut Healthcare Community Preparing for Ebola

WALLINGFORD – On October 14, more than 120 healthcare providers attended a statewide briefing at the Connecticut Hospital Association on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and Enterovirus D68. Hospitals, community health providers, public health leaders, emergency medical services personnel, and other first responders attended the meeting, which is one of many ongoing activities around EVD preparedness and public safety in Connecticut. CHA hosted the briefing in concert with the Yale New Haven Health System Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response and the Milford Health Department.

Dr. A. Dennis McBride, Milford Health Director, introduced featured speaker Louise Marie Dembry, MD. Dr. Dembry is Associate Director, Yale-New Haven Hospital Epidemiology, Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) and Epidemiology, Yale University, and Co-Medical Director, Yale New Haven Health System Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. Dr. Dembry, a recognized expert on hospital epidemiology and infectious diseases, provided a clinical overview of Enterovirus D68, including infection prevention recommendations, recommendations to ensure the protection of healthcare workers, and reporting guidance.

Additionally, Dr. Dembry provided background on EVD, including signs and symptoms, infection timeline, screening protocol, and diagnostic testing. She focused on the ways in which healthcare workers can prepare to detect patients with EVD, protect themselves and others, and respond appropriately. Following her presentation, a detailed discussion highlighted specific screening and operational protocols, testing, and personal protective equipment. Dr. Dembry offered practical advice and responded to questions from healthcare providers and emergency response personnel.

CHA was pleased to host the briefing as part of hospitals' statewide effort to ensure a coordinated response to EVD from hospitals and healthcare providers. Hospitals are in regular contact with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), and CHA is working with DPH to coordinate critical communications with hospitals and share materials and resources related to EVD detection, treatment, and response. CHA and hospitals began regular emergency preparedness coordination calls last week to share tools and resources, as well as best practices and lessons learned.

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About CHA

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.