## Maintaining Preparedness for Emerging Diseases of Public Health Concern

Lilian Peake, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist Virginia Department of Health

October 28, 2019



## **Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases**



### Public health's role in an outbreak of emerging disease

Is this an outbreak?

What is the potential impact?

What controls can be placed to prevent spread of disease?

Could this be an act of terrorism?

Epidemiological investigation & on-going surveillance for cases

Inform, educate & coordinate with healthcare community, first responders, officials & public

Isolate ill persons

Provide preventive treatment

Quarantine & monitor exposed

Environmental health monitoring & controls

Assistance with sheltering; mortuary support; mass care



## Special Pathogens

- Highly infectious agents that cause severe disease
  - High morbidity and/or mortality
  - High likelihood of secondary cases
  - Lack effective vaccine, prophylaxis or treatment
  - Might prompt use of biocontainment unit



# EVD Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- Risk in DRC = very high
- Risk among countries bordering DRC-affected areas = very high
- Risk at global level = low



## Outbreak Response

- Find, isolate, diagnose, treat cases
- Prevent transmission
  - Infection control
  - Contact tracing, vaccination, quarantine
  - DRC border screening
- Community engagement and education
  - Safe and dignified burials
  - Vaccine acceptance



## **Epidemic Curve**

Visual display of onset of illness among cases associated with outbreak



## Factors Impeding Response

- Complex political environment and lack of security → fear and distrust
- Reluctance in community → delays in case detection and isolation
- Infection and prevention control practices → nosocomial transmission
- Other concurrent outbreaks (e.g., measles, monkeypox)
  → further strain on resources



### Low Risk to United States

Low number of travelers from DRC

- Entry and exit screening in DRC
  - Goma Airport
  - >110 entry points land borders
- No direct flights to United States



## **Dulles International Airport Planning**

- Entry screening at U.S. airports or active monitoring of travelers not recommended at this time
  - Federal authorities decide if warranted
  - Dulles International Airport would be 1 of 6 sites
- Core planning group of Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Airport Operations, CDC Dulles Quarantine Station, Customs and Border Protection, and VDH
  - Nearby hospitals and local health departments also engaged in planning efforts



# Planning for Entry Screening at Dulles International Airport



# Tools to Identify, Isolate, and Inform for Possible EVD Patient

#### **VDH**

- Ebola Evaluation Algorithm <u>www.vdh.virginia.gov/ebola</u>
- Local Health Department <u>www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-department-locator/</u>

#### **CDC**

- Assessing Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) Risk in a Returning Traveler
- Assessing Fever in a Returning Traveler with No Risk of VHF
- www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinician s/index.html





## **EVD Take Home Messages**

- Risk of Ebola virus spreading is very high within eastern DRC and its neighboring countries
- Risk of Ebola virus spreading globally is low
- U.S. health care facilities should be prepared to identify a PUI, isolate him or her, and immediately inform the local health department
- A detailed travel history is critical in identifying a PUI



## Novel Influenza A: Key Facts

- Caused by influenza A virus subtypes that are different from currently circulating human H1 and H3 viruses
- Spread mainly by respiratory droplets

Antivirals might be effective; vaccine might not be widely available initially



## Influenza Viruses of Special Concern

#### Avian influenza viruses

- H5 H5N1
  - Highly pathogenic
- H7 H7N9
  - Low pathogenic

### Swine influenza/variant influenza A viruses

H1N1v, H3N2v, H1N2v



## Novel Influenza A in the United States

#### 463 U.S. cases caused by

- Influenza A H3N2v (n=427)
- Influenza A H1N2v (n=25)
- Influenza A H1N1v (n=10)
- Influenza A H7N2 (n=1)



# E-cigarette or Vaping Associated Lung Injury (EVALI)

- Cough, chest pain, shortness of breath, GI
- Fever, chills, weight loss
- Develop over days to weeks

Lung infection does not appear to be causing the symptoms



## E-Cigarette Product Use



## **EVALI** Cases\*

|                                  | United States | Virginia |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Cases                            | 1,479         | 60       |
| Deaths                           | 33            | 1        |
| Male                             | 70%           | 66%      |
| Percent < 35 years old           | 79%           | 82%      |
| Exposure (# with available info) | 849           | 25       |
| Used THC product                 | 78%           | 76%      |
| Only used THC product            | 31%           | 11%      |
| Used nicotine product            | 58%           | 56%      |
| Only used nicotine product       | 10%           | 7%       |



## **EVALI** Take Home Messages

- Exposure history important
  - Ask about more than smoking or tobacco use
- CDC Interim Guidance for Clincians
- Providers required to immediately report suspected cases to local health department
- www.vdh.virginia.gov/vaping



# **Staying Prepared**



## THANK YOU!



### Resources

#### **VDH**

- Local health departments www.vdh.virginia.gov/local-health-districts/
- Ebola (includes VDH/VHHA webinar for hospitals on August 6, 2019) www.vdh.virginia.gov/ebola
- EVALI www.vdh.virginia.gov/vaping/

#### CDC

- Ebola map of DRC outbreak www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/drc/east-drc-map.html
- Ebola for clinicians www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/clinicians/index.html
- Malaria <u>www.cdc.gov/parasites/malaria/index.html</u>
- Pandemic flu www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/
- \*Outbreaks www.cdc.gov/outbreaks/index.html and Travel Notices wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices
- EVALI www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html

#### WHO

- Ebola outbreak situation reports <u>www.who.int/ebola/situation-reports/drc-2018/en/</u>
- \*Outbreaks www.who.int/csr/don/en/
- \*Georgia Department of Health's Travel Clinical Assistant (TCA) <a href="mailto:dph.georgia.gov/TravelClinicalAssistant">dph.georgia.gov/TravelClinicalAssistant</a>
- National Ebola Training and Education Center <u>netec.org/</u>
  - Identify, Isolate, Inform: Assessment, management, and placement of PUI courses.netec.org/courses/pui-101



<sup>\*</sup> Resources to maintain awareness about domestic or international outbreaks