

# COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



**STEVEN BELLONE**

SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

**JAMES L. TOMARKEN, MD, MPH, MBA, MSW**

October 26, 2014

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

### **SUBJECT:**

**Suffolk County Interim Policy Regarding Medical Transportation of Suspected EVD Patients for Treatment**

### **AUTHORITY:**

This policy is enacted pursuant to New York State Executive Law, New York State Public Health Law, New York State Sanitary Code, the Suffolk County Charter and the Suffolk County Sanitary Code and establishes a standard procedure for emergency medical response to suspected Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Suffolk County

### **PURPOSE:**

To recognize the importance of protecting emergency responders, protecting the integrity of our regional healthcare system and to make all reasonable efforts outside the normal scope of daily operations to prevent communicable disease transmission

### **SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all ambulance and first response services, Public Safety Answering Points, law enforcement agencies, and hospitals in Suffolk County

### **POLICY:**

Pursuant to Public Health Law § 324(1)(e), rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, New York State Sanitary Code 10 NYCRR §§ 2.16(a) and 8.1, Suffolk County Charter §§ C3-2, C3-1(A), C9-1 and C9-3(a), Suffolk County Sanitary Code § 760-202 1(c) & (g), and New York State Executive Law § 29-b(2)(a) and (b), it is hereby jointly ordered and directed by Suffolk County Commissioner of the Department of Health Services, James Tomarken, MD, and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone that:

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This interim policy governs the medical transportation of suspected patients infected with the Ebola Virus Disease (“EVD”) to a medical facility for medical treatment. The purpose of this policy is to minimize the number of first responders, first response vehicles and medical facilities exposed to EVD, and to develop a medical transportation policy that is harmonious with the New York State Department of Health’s designation that Stony Brook University Hospital (“SBUH”) shall be the treatment hospital for suspected patients infected with EVD. This interim policy is designed to protect our emergency medical services workers, protect the health of Suffolk County residents, and maintain the stability of the County’s healthcare infrastructure by developing a coordinated county-wide effort.

Accordingly, until notice is otherwise provided by the County Executive of Suffolk County and/or Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (“SCDHS”), the designated Emergency Medical Service transporter for suspected EVD patients shall be SBUH.

This interim policy shall take effect immediately and remain in effect until the County Executive of Suffolk County and/or the Commissioner of the SCDHS indicates otherwise.

Nothing in this policy shall have any effect on any existing protocol and/or policy other than as explicitly stated herein. This policy relates only to individuals who have symptoms associated with EVD and meet predetermined risk criteria as provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the New York State Department of Health (“NYSDOH”).

#### **PROCEDURE:**

##### Individuals Being Monitored by the SCDHS

In the case of an individual returning from an EVD affected country (“Individual-1”), the policy of the NYSDOH is to notify the SCDHS regarding Individual-1’s arrival and risk assessment for contracting EVD. The SCDHS shall immediately provide Individual-1’s name, address, telephone number, and pertinent medical information to Suffolk County Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services (“FRES”), the Suffolk County Police Department (“SCPD”), the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office, and SBUH. The SCDHS shall actively monitor Individual-1 pursuant to the protocols of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYSDOH. Further, the SCDHS will advise Individual-1 to notify the SCDHS of any development of symptoms consistent with EVD infection, and **not** to call any local fire or emergency services agency in such a case. The SCDHS shall provide Individual-1 the name and phone number of a contact person at SCDHS, as well as the phone number of FRES to call in the event that Individual-1 is unable to reach SCDHS personnel. The SCDHS shall instruct Individual-1 to call 911 directly in case of a non-EVD related emergency. These calls will be handled according to usual dispatch and EMS protocols.

In the event that the SCDHS determines that Individual-1 is in need of transportation to a hospital for evaluation and possible treatment for EVD, the SCDHS shall call FRES directly by dialing (631) 852-4820 and shall notify FRES that Individual-1 must be transported to SBUH. FRES shall dispatch a SBUH ambulance that has been specifically designated as an ambulance for the transport of possible EVD patients (a “SBUH Ambulance”). A SBUH Ambulance shall transport Individual-1 to SBUH for evaluation and possible treatment. FRES shall immediately provide notification of the event to the SCPD, the Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office and any applicable “situational non-response notification” to the local jurisdiction having authority for Fire, EMS and law enforcement.

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### An Individual Calls 911

In the event that an individual Public Safety Access Point (“PSAP”) receives a 911 call from an individual who indicates symptoms associated with EVD and meets predetermined risk criteria as provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYSDOH, the call shall be transferred to FRES for processing. The initial receiving PSAP may remain on the line for post call instructions. FRES shall dispatch a SBUH Ambulance to transport the individual to SBUH for evaluation and possible treatment. FRES shall immediately provide notification of the event to the SCPD, SCDHS, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office and a “situational non-response notification” to the local jurisdiction having authority for Fire, EMS and law enforcement.

### An Individual Visits a SCDHS Health Center

In the event that an individual visits a SCDHS Health Center, and SCDHS personnel determines that the individual meets the criteria as potentially having EVD, the patient will be isolated. The SCDHS shall notify the NYSDOH of the event. If it is determined in consultation with the NYSDOH that the patient is in need of transportation to a hospital for evaluation and treatment for potential EVD infection, the SCDHS shall call FRES directly by dialing (631) 852-4820 and notify FRES that the individual must be transported to SBUH. FRES shall dispatch a SBUH Ambulance which shall transport the individual to SBUH for evaluation and possible treatment. FRES shall immediately provide a notification of the event to the SCPD, SCDHS, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office and a “situational non-response notification” to the local jurisdiction having authority for Fire, EMS and law enforcement.

### An Individual Visits a Private Healthcare Provider

In the event that an individual visits a private healthcare provider, such as a doctor’s office, and the medical practitioner determines that the individual presents symptoms associated with EVD and meets predetermined risk criteria as provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYSDOH, the medical practitioner shall notify the SCDHS immediately by calling (631) 854-0333, and cause the patient to be isolated, pending official action by the SCDHS, in accordance with the New York State Sanitary Code and the policies and procedures of the NYSDOH. If it is after normal business hours, the medical practitioner shall call FRES at (631) 852-4820 which shall then contact the SCDHS personnel on call at that time. Once notified, the SCDHS shall consult the NYSDOH and evaluate the individual pursuant to the protocols of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYSDOH. In the event that the NYSDOH and SCDHS determine that the individual is in need of transportation to a hospital for evaluation and treatment for potential EVD infection, the SCDHS shall call FRES directly by dialing (631) 852-4820 and notify FRES that the individual must be transported to SBUH. FRES shall dispatch a SBUH Ambulance which shall transport the individual to SBUH for evaluation and possible treatment. FRES shall immediately provide a notification of the event to the SCPD, Suffolk County Sheriff’s Office and a “situational non-response notification” to the local jurisdiction having authority for Fire, EMS and law enforcement.

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### An Individual Visits an Emergency Room

In the event an individual visits an emergency room in a hospital located in Suffolk County, that individual shall be isolated, evaluated and, if necessary, tested for EVD at that hospital pursuant to the protocols of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYSDOH. It is the responsibility of that hospital to notify the SCDHS and NYSDOH of the event. In the event the individual tests positive for EVD, the hospital shall call FRES directly by dialing (631) 852-4820 and notify FRES that the individual must be transported to SBUH. FRES shall dispatch a SBUH Ambulance which shall transport the individual to SBUH for treatment. FRES shall immediately provide a notification of the event to the SCPD, SCDHS, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and a "situational non-response notification" to the local jurisdiction having authority for Fire, EMS and law enforcement.

### Miscellaneous

FRES shall notify all PSAPs, local fire departments, ambulance services, and Basic Life Support First Response Services located in Suffolk County that all calls relating to potential EVD infection shall be dispatched by FRES until further notice. FRES shall provide information on a continuing basis relating to any cases of possible EVD infections to the relevant local jurisdiction having authority for Fire, EMS and law enforcement for situational awareness.

In the event that SBUH's capacity to evaluate and treat suspected EVD patients is exceeded, additional patients shall be transported by SBUH to Bellevue Hospital in New York City.

Attached to this policy are the symptoms and risk factors associated with EVD as provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

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