



# Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

## Are we Ready?

An Overview of Maine's Operational  
Readiness to Respond to an Ebola  
Outbreak





# Phase 1: Maine's Initial Response Activities

- October 17, 2014: The State Health Department activates its Incident Command System and our EOC to coordinate planning and response activities
- At the request of the Governor, an interagency task force was established comprised of the following state agencies:
  - Maine DHHS (CDC)
  - DVEM(MEMA)
  - DPS(EMS)
  - Maine DEP
  - Maine DOC
- The task force functioned in a “unified command” system with public health acting as the lead response agency with the remaining agencies acting in a support role
- Our 1<sup>st</sup> task force was held on October 22, 2014 at Maine CDC with the goal of assessing our current capabilities to respond as well as identify any operational gaps specific to Ebola



# Phase 2: Identify our Operational Priorities and Challenges

- Task force establish the following operational priorities:
  - Protect the health and safety of Maine residents
  - Quickly identify Ebola cases through surveillance
  - Implement a regional response model for Ebola transport and clinical care
  - Develop a process for isolation and quarantine support services
  - Disseminate risk communication messages to the public
- Planning challenges for EVD:
  - Lack of PPE within healthcare systems to provide clinical care to an Ebola patient
  - Waste management and disposal of Category A agents
  - Environmental decontamination
  - Safe patient transport by ems providers (lack PPE & Training)
  - Legal issues for isolation and quarantine
  - Safety and Security for patients and their families
  - Public information



# Phase 3: Ready, Set, Go!!

- Maine DHHS/CDC coordinated agency-specific planning activities in order to develop a comprehensive State Ebola Response Plan that supported our operational priorities
- Several major gaps had to be addressed throughout the planning process which included:
  - Ensuring public health, medical, law enforcement, ems, and mortuary responders have appropriate PPE and training
  - Developing a process to safely dispose and transport Category A waste
  - Developing a Concept of Operations that took a “regional” approach in order to limit potential exposures
  - Developing monitoring processes to safely identify and monitor potential travelers returning from West Africa
  - Providing provide supportive services to individuals placed into quarantine
  - Ensuring that returning travelers were safe and that quarantine orders could be enforced



# Phase 4: Mission Objectives for Task Force Members

- Maine DHHS/CDC was assigned to complete the following mission objectives:
  - Purchase and allocate PPE to response partners
  - Facilitate the development of a network of regional hospitals that could provide clinical care
  - Provide public information through websites, call centers, television
  - Develop a plan to provide support services
  - Provide a mechanism to dispose of Ebola medical waste
  - Ensure returning travelers are monitored and tracked
- The Maine Emergency Management Agency was assigned the following mission objectives:
  - Develop a regional law enforcement team to provide safety and security of responders and individuals
  - Developing a regional mortuary team to ensure the safe handling of human remains
  - Identify specialized cleaning companies that are licensed to clean Category A contaminants
- Maine EMS was tasked was assigned the following mission requirements:
  - Work with local ems providers to develop regional transport teams capable of safely assessing and transporting a confirmed or suspected Ebola case
  - Work with PSAPs to update and activate the state EMD to align with the CDC questions
- Maine DEP was assigned the following mission objectives:
  - Work with federal DEP and DOT to procure a special permit to allow the transportation of Category A agents on state and federal roads



# Phase 5: Meeting our Mission Objectives

- ✓ Completion of a State Ebola Response Plan
- ✓ Established four regional assessment hospitals
- ✓ Established four regional EMS Ebola transport teams
- ✓ Established a mortuary Ebola response team
- ✓ Established a law enforcement Ebola response team
- ✓ Purchased adequate PPE for responders
- ✓ Developed a Ebola waste disposal and transport system



# Thank You!