Ebola Update

- On 9/30th, the 1st case of Ebola was diagnosed in the US from a person who traveled to Dallas, TX from Liberia.
- While we know the spread of Ebola in West Africa has been concerning, in the US we have a strong public health and health care system with adequate resources to protect healthcare workers and close collaboration between public health and health care providers to contain disease. The risk to Alameda County residents is extremely low.
- We do know how to stop Ebola’s further spread:
  - Find and investigate potential cases
  - Isolate ill people (including appropriate infection control practices in healthcare settings)
  - Contact people exposed to the ill person
  - Isolate contacts if they develop symptoms
- The U.S. public health and medical systems have had prior experience with sporadic cases of diseases such as Ebola. In the past decade, the United States had 5 imported cases of viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) diseases similar to Ebola (1 Marburg, 4 Lassa). None resulted in any transmission in the United States.

The Alameda County Public Health Dept has been anticipating and preparing for a case of Ebola in the United States.

- We have been monitoring the situation closely
- We disseminated a Health Update with guidance on the disease, reporting, testing, and infection control for clinicians on 8/19/14
- We have been working with CA Dept of Public Health and local hospitals to share guidance, tools, and discuss how we would coordinate our response to any suspected Ebola cases, including coordination with labs for appropriate lab testing and preparation for safe packaging and shipping to the CDC in Atlanta for testing
- Our EMS Agency is sharing CDC guidance for ambulance provider preparedness for Ebola with our local pre-hospital providers
- If a person in our county is suspected to have Ebola, the public health department, local hospitals, and the local health care provider community will work together to keep patients, employees, visitors, and the public safe.
Other facts about Ebola:

- Ebola virus is not spread through casual contact or through the air. It is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids of a sick person or exposure to objects such as needles that have been contaminated.
- Symptoms can appear an average of 8-10 days after exposure (although the full range is from 2 to 21 days).
- People are not contagious unless they develop symptoms.

For additional information:

- ACPHD Ebola Health Update for Clinicians
- CDPH Ebola webpage
- CDC Ebola webpage