



NOTICE OF ROUNDTABLE

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBJECT: Ebola: Is NY Ready?

PURPOSE: To discuss how we can ensure New York's health care system is best prepared to handle an Ebola case should the virus reach New York.

The Senate Standing Committee on Health will be holding a Roundtable discussion at 2:00 pm on Friday, October 17, 2014, in the NYS Senate Hearing Room at 250 Broadway, New York, New York, to discuss the preparedness of the state's health care system to diagnose, manage, isolate and provide care should Ebola reach New York. The roundtable will be webcast at http://www.livestream.com/nysenate_health

The Ebola virus, which is often deadly in humans, was first discovered in Africa in 1976. The average fatality rate is around 50%, with rates varying from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks. The current outbreak in West Africa is the largest and most complex outbreak since the virus' discovery, causing more deaths than all other outbreaks combined. With approximately 8,914 cases reported, the death toll has risen to nearly 4,500 and climbing.

The majority of cases in this outbreak have occurred as a result of human-to-human transmission. Infection occurs from direct contact through broken skin or mucous membranes with the blood, or other bodily fluids or secretions of an infected person, or similar contact with contaminated articles such as soiled clothing. Symptoms of Ebola begin anytime from 2 to 21 days after infection. Humans are not infectious until they develop symptoms. There is no proven treatment for Ebola; however, a range of potential treatments including blood with Ebola antibodies, supportive care such as rehydration with oral or intravenous fluids, and treatment of specific symptoms have shown to improve survival.

In late September, Thomas Eric Duncan, having recently been exposed to Ebola in Liberia, sought treatment at a Dallas hospital and was the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the United States. Mr. Duncan passed away on October 8th. Since his death, two health care workers involved in his treatment have been diagnosed with Ebola and many others continue to be monitored. These cases have highlighted the need to ensure proper protocols are in place and health care workers have been trained to prevent the future spread of this virus, especially amongst frontline caregivers.

Home to one of the largest international airports in the world and a destination to travelers worldwide, it is imperative that New York be prepared. This roundtable discussion aims to bring together the state's hospitals, public health and emergency preparedness officials and health care experts to discuss current efforts and protocols for when a suspected Ebola patient arrives at the hospital, including issues such as patient placement, isolation, transportation, staff allocation, protective equipment, laboratory requirements and other necessary precautions, and to highlight areas where improvements may be needed. The best chance for a successful emergency preparedness plan requires everyone working together in an informed and coordinated effort addressing any weaknesses in the current system.

Participation is by invitation only. Any prepared statements or materials to be submitted by participants should be sent in advance. Written comments will also be accepted and may be sent to the attention of the Chair at 420 Capitol, Albany, NY. In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the committees' interest in hearing testimony from all sources. Individuals can also watch the event online on the New York State Senate website at the following web address:

http://www.livestream.com/NYSenate_Health In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the legislature, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to legislative facilities and activities.

New York State Senate Standing Committee on Health
Senator Kemp Hannon, Chair

**Senate Standing Committee on Health
Roundtable Discussion**



Ebola: Is NY Ready?

October 17, 2014 - New York, New York

Participant List

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Commissioner, Orange County Health Department

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Dennis P. Whalen

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Susan Waltman, Esq.

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Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System

Lisa Baum, MA

Occupational Safety and Health Representative, New York State Nurses Association

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