

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

**Moderator: Sara Belfry
October 27, 2015
10:00 a.m. CT**

Operator: This is conference #: 42401608

Good morning. My name is (Lanice) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time, I would like to welcome everyone to the Statewide Population Health conference call. All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speaker's remarks, there will be a question-and-answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question, press the pound key. Thank you.

I would now like to turn the call over to Sara Belfry from the Office of Communications. Ms. Belfry, you may begin your conference.

Sara Belfry: Thank you, (Lanice). This is Sara Belfry with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Office of Communications, and welcome to the October Population Health call. We're going to start off with a quick update from Charlie Hunt, our state epidemiologist.

Charlie Hunt: Thank you, Sara, and good morning, everyone. First, I'd like to provide a brief update of Ebola and situation update in West Africa, as well as some activities that are underway here in Kansas in terms of preparedness. So, first, three new confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease were recorded in (Guinea) in the week, ending October 18th, and this follows two weeks of no cases, so this is unfortunate news to hear.

Two of these cases were not registered contacts from previous cases, so it's clear that sporadic cases are continuing to occur, and there are a lot of contacts that are being followed right now. 246 contacts are being followed that are registered. There's an additional 253 contacts that were identified but are not under follow-up right now. They remain untraced.

So, according to World Health Organization, there remains a risk of further cases in the short term, at least, so we'll be continuing to watch that. Sierra Leone reported no cases for the fifth consecutive week, so that's good news there, at least.

With our preparedness activities, I'd like to just briefly mention that we conducted site visits to our two Centers of Excellence for Infectious Disease Preparedness. Again, that's the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City and Via Christi Hospital St. Francis down at Wichita. These visits were conducted the week of October 12 and they included teams from KDHE as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health in Human Services assistant secretary for (preparedness) response. And, once again I'd like to thank the staff at both hospitals for hosting us during the visits. We learned a lot about their preparedness activities and we will continue to work with them to improve things not only at the local level but we have some things that we'll be working on for the state level, as well.

Next, I'll just briefly mention an update on MERS-CoV. Cases continued to be reported in Saudi Arabia, although this is also a small number of cases. There were four cases that reported with – that had illness onset in the first two weeks of October. Interestingly, none of these patients had any identified comorbidities which would increase the risk of MERS-CoV infection and serious complications.

And the other interesting note is that there were no known risk factors for at least three of the four cases. The investigation is still pending in the fourth case. So, although the overall activity is low, cases are continuing to occur there, and we need to be mindful of that.

Next, I'd like to talk about influenza. Well, of course, we implemented our full seasonal influenza surveillance at the beginning of October. We have 36 (ILINet) sites in Kansas, so we have one additional site joined since the last population health call in September. Overall, the rates of (ILI) are slightly higher in Kansas than we were at this time last year, but it's not significantly so. And in fact, we're essentially still reporting no activity to CDC.

Nationally, many states are beginning to report either sporadic or local activity, although even at the national level, the overall activity is below baseline. We have tested two specimens at our state lab since the beginning of October and both of those have been negative. Nationally, the most frequent identified virus type has been influenza AH3 and this represents about 80 percent of the total positive specimens and there have been a few influenza AH1N1, the pandemic 2009 strain, and then there have also been a few influenza B viruses that have been identified. So, again, we're posting our influenza surveillance activity on our website, so please go there if you are interested in this information.

Also want to briefly mention that we are also making preparations for avian influenza in the state. As you know, there have been several instances of avian influenza that have occurred throughout the United States and this has resulted in a lot of activity to prevent and control spread including depopulation of the bird populations on the farms. The CDC in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has distributed some draft guidance to assist states in their preparedness activities and we in turn have been working with the USDA as well as the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Of particular note is that there is going to be a greater role for both state and local health departments in the event that an avian influenza is identified within the state or if we have workers that reside in the state that are working on farms or facilities either in normal operations or in depopulation activities. Primarily, this will include recommendations to conduct public health monitoring of those exposed workers. It's not going to be as intensive as we're doing for Ebola, but it is recommended that we make contact with workers on the first day and again on day 10. For some workers, post-

exposure prophylaxis might be recommended if they're high-risk for influenza complications, and so, that's something else to consider.

We are in the process of preparing the tool kit and education information, and we will be sending that information to you shortly. So, please stay tuned for that.

And finally, I want to announce a program that we are very enthusiastic about. We received some additional funding in our Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases cooperative agreement. This is a main infectious disease funding source from CDC. And the funding we received was to implement some best practices around case investigations, particularly for Shiga toxin *E. coli*, *Salmonella* infections, and *Listeria* infections.

And what we are proposing to do is hire two part-time investigators. For example, these might be nursing students who will receive specialized training to conduct case interviews. We are going to offer the local health departments an opportunity for KDHE to conduct the case interviews for those three conditions, for those three diseases.

The local health departments may opt out of this if they would like to continue to conduct their own interviews and of course, you know, all of the other diseases that occur, the local health departments would still be primarily responsible for doing those case investigations and interviews. But centralizing the interviews for these conditions has been recommended by CDC. It allows for better standardization across the counties, as well as across the states, particularly in the event that there's a multi-state outbreak, it's important to have standardized data collection.

And so, we'll be putting those plans together, and once again, we will provide additional information to you as we get closer to being able to implement this. And that's all I have. Thank you.

Sara Belfry: Thank you, Charlie. Next, we're going to go to (Jamie Hemler) with the Preparedness Program.

Jamie Hemler: Thanks, Sara. Good morning, everyone. I only have a couple of quick updates for you this morning. Fred the Preparedness Dog is closing in 16,000 interactions statewide. If anyone wants Fred to visit their school, just email fredpreparedness@kdheks.gov.

We also have additional KDHE-sponsored PPE trainings scheduled.

- December 15, 2015 – Leavenworth County
- January 25, 2016 – Wyandotte County
- January 26, 2016 – Johnson County
- February 16, 2016 – Liberal
- February 17, 2016 – Garden City
- February 18, 2016 – Dodge City

All of these dates will be on KS-TRAIN in the next day or two, so just check for that registration, course number 1056977. Training information will also be released through the Preparedness email updates. That's all I got.

Sara Belfry: All right. Thank you, Jamie. And next, we're going to go to (Cristi Cain), but we have a quick announcement about (Cristi) before she gets started. (Cristi) is our new director of the local public health program. So, please help us in welcoming (Cristi) in her new role. We're very excited to have her in this new role here at (KDHE). She's also the coordinator and guru on accreditation here at (KDHE) as we continue to prepare to submit everything at the end of the year for that.

If you need to reach (Cristi), her phone number is 785-296-6549 or you can email her at (ccain@kdheks.gov). Now, I will turn it over to (Cristi) for a quick update on (Catalyst).

(Cristi Cain): Thanks, Sara. I appreciate that. Good morning, everyone. And just a quick update. My phone number just changed yesterday, so I want to make sure you have my updated phone number. It is 785-296-6549. So, please let me know if you have any questions.

So, regarding Catalyst, as you know, we've had some challenges with implementation. And so, I just wanted to let you know some of the things that we're doing to address that situation. One is that we're hiring to replace

Nicole Fairley who left recently--that position will be posted until November 6. And if you would like to look at that posting, it is on the KDHE website under Careers at KDHE.

We have established a Catalyst email address for you to email challenges, questions, and concerns. That email address is catalyst@kdheks.gov. The email will enable us to triage the situation so we can determine whether that email needs to go to a KDHE program person or whether it needs to be addressed by Catalyst themselves - if it's a technology issue or whether it's something that we can handle internally. We've also developed some frequently asked questions. I know that the deadline is over and many of the questions were focused on the FSR/affidavit or the progress report.

The deadline has passed but we will keep those FAQs posted. We've also conducted a brief survey of KDHE program staff as well as some grantees to get feedback. We're in the process of prioritizing the fixes and enhancements that need to be made to Catalyst. So, if you have strong opinions about changes that need to be made, please contact me. We know that the implementation didn't go well, so we sincerely apologize for that and we're doing everything we can to streamline it, and hopefully it will be much improved by the next quarter deadline.

But if you have some specific things that you think should be addressed, please let me know. We do have an internal Catalyst committee meeting today with the deputy secretary, Aaron Dunkel. So, please let me know if you have questions, feel free to email me at ccain@kdheks.gov to share any feedback or feel free to email the Catalyst email.

So, with that, I'll turn it back to Sara. Thank you, everyone.

Sara Belfry:Next, we will go to (Deb Nickels) with a quick update on Kansas (Train).

(Deb Nickels):Good morning, everyone. I'm going to provide you information on some live learning events coming up. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) are offering a leadership development

opportunity in 2016 for all local and state public health professionals. Dates for the 2016 Local Public Health Leadership Series in Manhattan are, January 12 - 13, February 16 - 17, March 8 - 9, and April 12 - 13. Applications are due November 20. The purpose of the Local Public Health Leadership Series is to enhance the ability of local health department administrators and staff to exercise leadership in the delivery of Medicaid services to residents in their communities. The Local Public Health Leadership Series will develop core knowledge and skills related to identifying and responding to adaptive challenges. The focus will be on development of leadership competencies identified by the Kansas Leadership Center: Diagnosing the Situation, Managing Self, Energizing Others and Intervening Skillfully. The Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research (WSU-CCSR) will serve as faculty and coaches for the series which is modeled after the Kansas Leadership Center's training curriculum and methods. For more information, and to access the application, go to the [KALHD website](http://www.kalhd.org) at www.kalhd.org, or the [November](#) issue of Public Health Connections on the [Local Public Health Program webpage](#) of the KDHE website.

The 4th Quarter Regional Public Health Meetings began October 1. The meeting agenda includes Leadership Training by Sonja Armbruster, Director of Public Health Initiatives and Seth Bate, Director of Leadership Development, Center for Community Support and Research. Missty Lechner, Advocacy Project Director, from the American Heart/Stroke Association will discuss Kansas Alliance for Wellness-Mobilizing Communities to Support Healthy Local Foods. You can register via KS-TRAIN, Course ID 1059355 for the meetings scheduled in November and December. For more information please contact Teri Caudle at tcaudle@kdheks.gov.

The regional preparedness Healthcare Coalition meetings are posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> for registration.

- SEKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID 1059500
- NEKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID 1059234 (December 1)
- SWKS Hospital Emergency Response Team HPP Healthcare Coalition, Course ID 1059224 (November 13)
- NWKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID 1059020 (January 20, 2016)
- NCKS Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID 1059634 (November 20)
- Kansas Metro Regional Healthcare Coalition Meeting, Course ID 1059303
- SCKS Health Care Coalition Meeting, Course ID 1059730 (November 18)

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management is sponsoring on November 12, from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Burlington training on (MGT - 443) Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Communities. This is a management-level, instructor-led course designed to provide small, rural, remote communities with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively plan for and respond to

events that require isolation and/or quarantine for their populations in a variety of low and high-impact situations. Registration is on KS-TRAIN, Course ID 1056560. In the afternoon from 1:30 - 5 p.m. the (PER-308) Rural Isolation and Quarantine for Public Health and Healthcare Professionals, Course ID 1056562 will expand on concepts introduced in MCT-433. Both courses will be conducted by the Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium.

KDHE-BCHS: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Training, Use and Practice for Health and Medical Personnel, Course ID 1056977 has sessions scheduled for Leavenworth, December 15; Kansas City, Kansas, January 25 and Olathe, January 26. Southwest Kansas sessions will be February 16 in Liberal, February 17 in Garden City and February 18 in Dodge City. More dates and locations will be announced soon.

Online course announcements:

KDHE: The Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) - Kansas CHEMPACK online training will be available next week. The Preparedness Program will share KS-TRAIN registration information for this course in the next Preparedness Program Update email.

There is an online course from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that provides [Guidance for Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) During Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease in U.S. Hospitals](#), Course ID 1054088. **This course does not take the place of actual hands on training in donning and doffing PPE but can be used to begin building the competency of the workforce who may be required to care for persons with Ebola or other highly infectious diseases.**

We will send this training information out post the call today. Preparedness course information will be shared through the Preparedness Program Update and general public health training information through Public Health Connections. If you have questions please email kstrain@kdheks.gov or call 785-291-3457.

Sara Belfry: All right. Thanks, (Deb). Next, we're going to go to (Cherie Sage) to give us some updates about health promotion.

(Cherie Sage): Thank you, Sara. I'm (Cherie Sage), and I'm with Safe Kids Kansas and the Bureau of Health Promotion. And registration is now open to attend the 2015 Obesity Summit offered by the Governor's Council on Fitness November 17th in Junction City. At this summit participants will discuss strategies on nutrition, physical activity, and obesity.

There's no cost to attend the summit but registration is required. The summit will feature (Terry O'Toole) who is the senior adviser for the Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity at the CDC. So, you can visit www.getactivekansas.org and search for Obesity Summit 2015 to register and find out more details about this summit.

Also, KDHE's Bureau of Health Promotion is now accepting applications for injury prevention (mini grants). These grants are available to private or public non-profit community-based organization or units of local government to apply for injury prevention (mini grants). This is a competitive grant process, and the applications are due no later than Friday, November 13th, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. They must be received by our office at that time and not just (post-marked).

The purpose of the grant is to develop or enhance unintentional injury prevention interventions in the community. The award will not exceed \$5,000 per community with all grants pending availability of funding. So, if you have questions, please contact (Daina Hodges) at 785-296-0351 or (dhodges@kdheks.gov).

KDHE serves as the lead agency for Safe Kids Kansas, and we focus on preventing unintentional childhood injury. We also have a network of local coalitions across the state. If your community does not have a local Safe Kids Coalition, we would love to have a conversation with you about integrating childhood injury prevention into your community effort. So, if you're interested in that, please contact myself, (Cherie Sage), at 785-296-1223 or (Daina Hodges) at 785-296-0351.

And last, mark your calendars for the Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Annual Summit on January 28th and 29th, 2016 at the Kansas Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Brian King who is the deputy director for research translation in the Office of Smoking and Health at CDC. He was a contributing author of the 50th anniversary U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health.

The Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Annual Summit has been retitled to the Community Health Promotion Summit. The summit focus will be on building momentum to end the tobacco epidemic in Kansas. And all organizations submitting applications for state fiscal year 2017, Chronic Disease Risk Reduction funding are required to attend this event.

That's all I have. Thanks, Sara.

Sara Belfry: All right. Thank you, (Cherie). Next is our communications update. And kind of along the same lines about tobacco cessation and tobacco use reduction, we will be sending out a news release later today about a new training that we have for health care providers about reducing the use of tobacco in their patients and clients. So, be on the lookout for that. You do get continuing education credits for that course. And again, we'll be sending that out today after the phone call.

Additionally, I wanted to just again, point out that the Obesity Summit is in Junction City on November 17th. So, please register for that. It's a great summit and really gives you a lot of good information about how we can really combat obesity as a state here in Kansas.

We have the Great American Smokeout which is coming up on November 19th. And again, that's really just an event that we send a press release out and do some social media on. But we certainly enjoy when local communities get involved and get active with the Great American Smokeout.

In November, we also do our usual carbon monoxide release, just reminding people about the dangers of carbon monoxide that can accumulate in your home, especially during this whole winter month in Kansas. And November also marks the end of blue-green algae season. So, you will see those press releases in the next week or two about blue-green algae and generally, the lakes that are still under our watch or warning will remain so throughout the winter months, and then we'll start reassessing again in the spring.

If you have any questions on any of that, feel free to email the Communications Office at communications@kdheks.gov, and we're happy to answer any questions that you may have. Additionally, we will be sending

out the phone numbers and email addresses that were discussed today on the phone call right after the call so you'd get that information as quickly as possible. But the transcripts from previous calls are posted on our website, and you can access those for more information or if you missed details about something, you can go back and look at those old transcripts.

Our next call is November 24th at 10:00 a.m. And so, we look forward to hearing from you all then. But we'll go ahead right now and open it up for questions and answers.

Operator: At this time, if you would like to ask a question, please press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. Again, that is star and the number one on your telephone keypad. We'll pause for a moment to compile the Q&A roster.

And at this time, there are no questions.

Sara Belfry: All right. Well, thank you again, everyone, for your time this morning. If you have any questions, feel free to go back and look at the previous transcripts again or go ahead and email any of us. We will be sending out those email addresses later today. And again, the next meeting is November 24th at 10:00 a.m.

We look forward to hearing from you all then. Thank you.

Operator: This does conclude today's conference call. You may now disconnect.

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