

**Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee
(GEEERC)**

Oct 17, 2014

DRAFT Minutes

NOTE: These minutes are a summary of the proceedings of the October 17, 2014, Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee. Documents referenced in the minutes are available for public inspection. Please call 303-692-2744 to request copies.

I. Call to order/Roll call

Pursuant to CRS 24-6-402 of the Open Meetings Law and CRS 24-34-2104 of "Colorado Disaster Emergency Act of 1992," the October 17, 2014, meeting of the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee (GEEERC) was called to order at approximately 11 a.m. at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246 by Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. A quorum was declared with a majority of the members present.

Voting members' present:

Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Mark Salley, Director, Office of Communications, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Lyle Moore, Jr., MPH, REHS, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Lisa Miller, MD, MSPH, Director, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Laura Davis, President, State Board of Health and Safety Director Ball Aerospace and Technologies
Alfred Gilchrist, Steven J. Summer
Keith Roehr, DVM, State Veterinarian, Colorado Department of Agriculture
Kevin Kline, Colorado Division of Emergency Management
Carolyn Tillquist, MD, Licensed Physician Specializing in Infectious Diseases, Colorado Infectious Disease Associates
Stephen Cantrill, MD, Denver Health Hospital and Authority
Gabriella Kaufman, MD Colorado Infectious Disease Associates
John Carver, MD
John Nicoletti, Ph.D., Board Certified Specialist in Police and Public Safety Psychology.
Mark B. Johnson, Executive Director, Jefferson County Department of Public Health
Linda Burton, RN, Infection Preventionist, University of Colorado Hospital.
Michael Miller, DVM, Wildlife Disease Specialist.
Michael Dobersen, MD, Forensic Pathologist/Coroner/Medical Examiner, Arapaho County Coroner's Office
Peter T. Pons, MD, Emergency Physician, Denver Health Medical Center (functional back-up for Stephen Cantrill)

Visitors:

Lieutenant Governor Joe Garcia

II. EBOLA- Jessica Hancock Allen, EIS Officer-Infectious Disease

Update -Ebola preparedness –presentation

Discuss CDC guidance and what we (Colorado) are doing to prevent the spread of Ebola

- This is the largest Ebola outbreak in history. Three west African nations were directly affected; Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.
- The first case of Ebola was reported in the USA on September 30th from Liberia.
- CDC is now following 135 contacts at this time.
- Ebola is a viral disease. The incubation period is 2-21 days average is 8-10 days.
- Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear.
- Special website created where all documents are located at: www.colorado.gov/Ebola and www.cdc.gov/Ebola
- CoHelp has been set up.
- CDC is asking 2 questions; do you have Ebola symptoms and have they traveled to one of the 3 countries above?
- After these questions have been asked, then proceed with the following protocol:

Isolate: Use Personal protective equipment (PPE) guidance.

Call: all suspect cases will be reported to CDPHE. Symptomatic patients should be isolated and A-symptomatic patients should be released and monitored for 21 days.

Transport: Local health, in collaboration with State health, will contact EMS and hospitals located within the jurisdiction with details

- Ebola is classified as Category A Infectious Substance.
- Department of transportation has been in the loop.
- CDPHE has run drills and tabletops to prepare for possible cases.
- Quarantine and isolation orders have been established by the Attorney General's office.
- Texas has now started a GEEERC.

Please call 303-692-2700 for specific questions for EBOLA.

III. **Questions:**

Q: Waste disposal and waste streams, how do we contain them? When will Webinar information be out for the public? Do we have presentations for the media?

A: Guidance's have been put in place and are specific for Colorado. There a summary or FAQ. There is a specific site for coroner's information on the website too.

Q: What authority does CDPHE have in regards workers, protecting against issues like Texas?

A: The Colorado Nurses Association and Colorado Medical Society is onboard to work with us through any and all issues related to worker safety.

Q: In working with hospitals, how can we help them?

A: Working with CHA to formulate guidance for them. CDC has a "go team" in place in case another Ebola patient is received. There is a hospital system in place to decrease error. Surveys have been created with CHA collaboration to determine which questions should be asked by all facilities.

Q: DIA is high traffic, what is being done to monitor this situation?

A: DPH is meeting daily with DIA. A communicable disease plan has been in place for several years that includes DIA.

Q: Quarantine has been an issue in other countries what is our plan to enforce these orders?

A: Public health orders are in place to limit people to travel. We already quarantine TB patients so this is nothing new to us. There is a concern of lack of law enforcement involved to keep people quarantined; we hope they will be onboard. Mandatory verses Voluntary quarantine orders. Planned tabletop exercise with DHSEM to talk through some of the quarantine issues.

Q: What is the stability of the virus? How long does the body stay infected?

A: There are various factors that are involved but anywhere from several hours to several days.

IV. Enterovirus D68 - Lisa Miller

- August was the first case brought to attention.
- CDC- PCR assay that now speeds up the testing.
- 800 people confirmed in all states.
- Antiviral were tested and there are still no treatments.
- State epidemiologist follows and reports each week.
- Age effected from 1-61 yrs old and in CO there was 12 adults out of 36 even though it hit children harder.
- Kaiser reports data weekly and tracks influenza.
- Children's Hospital -September 2014, 9 cases broke out.
- 37 cases in 16 states as of October 15, 2014

V. Meeting Adjourn

Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee (GEEERC)

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

4300 Cherry Creek Drive South

“A” Building

Denver, CO 80246

Call in 1-877-820-7831

Passcode:845543#

2015 Quarterly Meeting Schedule

2015	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Denver, Colorado			
Tuesday	March	24	2015	Department Operations Center (DOC)
Thursday	May	14	2015	Department Operations Center (DOC)
Thursday	August	13	2015	Sabin/Cleere
Thursday	November	12	2015	Department Operations Center (DOC)