



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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COMMISSIONER

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To: Texas Hospitals

As you are aware, Texas experienced an unprecedented event with the first cases of Ebola in the United States. As with all emergency responses in Texas, we work hard to address the immediate issues and then work to improve our preparedness for the future.

Ebola is a scary disease and the recent events challenged assumptions regarding the management of an Ebola patient and the best way to protect health care workers who care for these patients. The State of Texas is committed to ensuring that our public health and health care systems stand ready for this challenge. We have been working over the summer to ensure that the latest information is in the hands of providers across the state about Ebola. The Governor has also established a task force to specifically look at infectious disease preparedness and response in light of the Ebola outbreak and make recommendations for enhancing our readiness. We welcome this focus on infectious diseases and their potential impact of our state.

Attached please find a flow chart for Hospital and Emergency Triage Assessment for Ebola. This document represents up-to-date recommendations regarding screening for possible indications of Ebola and actions that should be taken immediately if Ebola is suspected. For inpatient care, you should follow the recently released CDC guidance on caring for Ebola patients. We are currently reviewing the latest revised CDC guidance regarding personal protective equipment as well as planning for management of individuals infected with Ebola in our state. We will continue to make sure that health care providers receive the most up-to-date information regarding Ebola and are available for consultation as needed.

Thank you for your partnership and all you do to serve the health needs of Texans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lakey MD".

David L. Lakey, M.D.
Commissioner