

Responding to a Global Public Health Emergency

Sigma Theta Tau
Institute for Global Healthcare
Leadership
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Disclosure Statement

I have no financial disclosures that would be a potential conflict of interest with this presentation.

Objectives

- Examine how the global community can better prepare for, and respond to, international health emergencies such as Ebola
- Discuss the benefits of information sharing among nations to strengthen healthcare system preparedness and identify operational gaps
- Identify the roles health care teams play in global response and preparedness

International Response: The Role of the WHO

Guiding Principles for International Outbreak Alert and Response

- Provide direction on how to prepare for field activity, to activate international support, to coordinate response in the field, to evaluate and follow up on outbreaks of international importance.
- WHO ensures outbreaks of potential international importance are rapidly verified and information is quickly shared within the Network.
- There is a rapid response coordinated by the Operational Support Team to request assistance for affected state(s).

The Case of the Ebola Outbreak

- Ebola was rapidly spreading in West African countries
- Fragile health care system/infrastructure
- Inability to contain the spread of disease
- Poor economic conditions
- Porous borders between West African Countries
- Short supply of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Inadequate disease surveillance system
- Shortage of health care workers

Questions Raised During the Ebola Response

- What happened?
- Why did it take so long for a response?
- Who will do what in the response?
- Who is responsible for helping West Africa?
- How will the US help?
- What will the rest of the world do to help?
- Why is the virus spreading so fast?
- Why are so many people dying from this virus?

August 2014

On August 8, 2014, WHO declared the Ebola epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

*Need for a coordinated international response

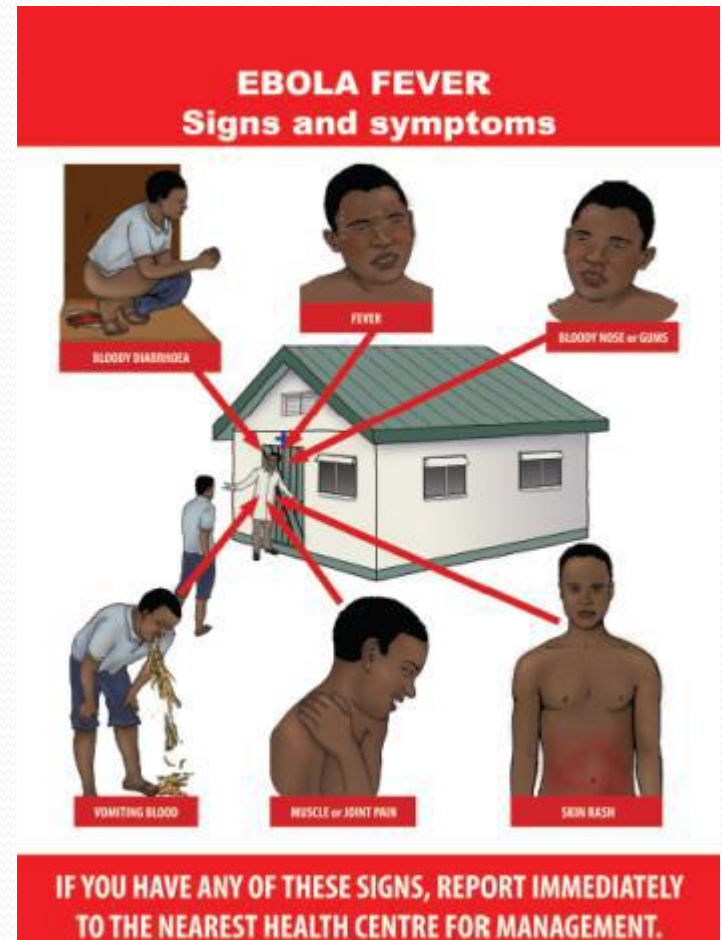
*WHO Ebola Response Roadmap published 8/28/14



Epidemic Challenges

Lack of Acceptance that Ebola is Real

- Fear and superstition
- Stigma
- Distrust of outsiders
- Rumors that foreigners brought Ebola to make money
- Rumors that ETUs were harvesting organs or blood



Epidemic Challenges

Active Community Resistance



Vehicle of contact tracing worker stopped in Gueckedou District, Guinea

Photo credit: Meredith Dixon

Epidemic Challenges *Healthcare System*

Overburdened public health and healthcare system

- Not enough healthcare workers
- Unpaid healthcare workers
- Insufficient numbers of treatment centers/beds
- Insufficient training in infection prevention and control
- Insufficient quantities of PPE
- Insufficient medical supplies



Epidemic Challenges

Burial Customs

- Funerals with ritual washing of corpses, touching of bodies without barrier protection (e.g., gloves)
- Acceptance of safe burial practices (e.g., using full personal protective equipment) culturally difficult



Mission Specificity

The USPHS Commissioned Corps: the only U.S. government asset in West Africa that provided direct patient care.







Handwash

NIO
OMS





Priorities in a Global Response Such as Ebola

- Communication with partners and host country
- Facilitate diplomatic relationships in country
- Contain and control the epidemic – data sharing
- Set priorities for clinical services
- Security - physical and environmental
- Resource management - supplies and sustainment
- Coordination with stakeholders
- Provide high quality care for healthcare workers and responders

Benefits of Open Communication in the Response

- Opportunity to have a dialogue about values and beliefs
- Transparency with partners involved in providing care
- Opportunity to understand the cultural differences between providers and host country
- Avoided conflict between MoH and partners
- Improved trust and respect between host country and responders
- Allowed opportunities to build relationships built on mutual benefit and concern for those we serve

Role of the Health Care Team in a Global Response

- Providing direct care
- Communicating with community leaders
- Development of clinical guidelines and best practices
- Community engagement
- Stakeholder coordination
- Education
- Contact tracing
- Epidemiologic reports and surveillance
- Negotiating resources

International Response Competencies

- Cultural awareness/Cultural competency
- Diplomacy
- Communication
- Coordination/Triage/Case Management
- Clinical knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Administrative oversight
- Fiscal management
- Policy/Regulatory knowledge
- Resilience

MMU Mission:

Providing hope through care to healthcare workers in Liberia who may have the Ebola Virus Disease and continuing efforts with the Liberian government and international partners to build capacity for additional care.

rsday 20 NOVEMBER 2



DO NOT
BLOCK

FORN

Avera
Sacred Heart
Hospital





PPF: Personal Protective EQUIPMENT

PPB: Personal Protective BEHAVIOR

PPD: Personal Protective DISTANCE

Take Care of Each other!

Hydrate Your Patients!

Be Safe!

LAB
CHEMISTRY – Green Top Tube
CBC – Purple Top Tube
EBOLA PCR – Purple Top Tube
MALARIA PCR – Purple Top Tube
UA / HCG – Urine

1" tubing

IV
BAGS

LABORATORY SUPPLIES

TAGS





U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

WONG

Features Spirit Oklahoma

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CONFIRMED
WARD
DO NOT ENTER

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Lessons Learned

- We can improve international responses with better training, awareness, and communication as issues emerge
- Ebola can be treated safely
- Communication is critical in times of crises
- We live in a global community where everyone is connected
- A global response can be successful with planning, coordination, collaboration, and strong partnerships
- Public health is a national security priority

Lessons Learned (cont)

- Fragile healthcare systems can be devastated when faced with a disease outbreak
- Disaster management - be prepared for anything
- Comprehensive approach – interprofessional team
- It takes a village - the Global community
- Nurses possess the skills to be leaders in preparedness and response both domestically and internationally

TODAY I AM HEALED
TOMMORROW I RETURN TO HEAL ANOTHER



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

THE LOVE OF LIBERTY - LIBERTY FROM EBOLA - BROUGHT US HERE



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