We are in the midst of the largest Ebola outbreak in the history of the world. The outbreak continues to grow on a weekly basis. Predictions of numbers of future cases are worrisome.

Although the risk of Ebola cases in CA is very low, planning is underway in the event we have an Ebola suspect in Santa Barbara County. The Public Health Department is actively communicating with our local in-patient and outpatient partners, including hospitals, clinics, and laboratories, as well as state and federal partners, to plan for the possibility of a suspect case. We are learning from other communities that have either had Ebola suspects or had drills to respond to potential cases. There are many areas for consideration such as testing, isolation and quarantine, treatment, facilities, transportation, and waste management, along with internal and external communication. Healthcare providers in our community will be receiving Public Health Broadcasts and Public Health Alerts with timely information from the Public Health Department in the near future. We appreciate the commitment healthcare partners have made to plan with us. Together our planning and preparation as a community will result in the best outcomes for our residents.

A medical and health exercise with an Ebola scenario will take place November 20th. Trainings will be offered to prepare for the exercise and to update on Ebola guidance and planning for Santa Barbara County on October 21 in Santa Maria and October 23 in Santa Barbara. Contact jan.koegler@sbcphd.org for more information on these trainings.

The 2014-15 recommendations of the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on the Prevention and Control of Seasonal Influenza with Vaccines are posted at http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/flu.html. Routine annual influenza immunization continues to be recommended for all persons 6 months and older. Healthcare providers should begin offering vaccination soon after vaccine becomes available. To avoid missed opportunities for vaccination, providers should offer vaccination during routine healthcare visits and hospitalizations.
Starting in 2014-2015, ACIP recommends the use of live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) for healthy children 2 through 8 years of age when it is immediately available and if the child has no contraindications or precautions to that vaccine. Recent studies suggest that LAIV flu vaccine may work better than inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV) in younger children. If LAIV is not immediately available, IIV should be used. Vaccination should not be delayed to procure LAIV.

**Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV13) for Adults 65 Years and Older**

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released a new recommendation for the use of pneumococcal vaccines among adults. Adults 65 years or older are now recommended to get the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13, Prevnar-13®) and the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23, Pneumovax®23).

As part of the new recommendation, adults 65 years of age or older who have not previously received any pneumococcal vaccines or whose previous vaccination history is unknown should receive a dose of PCV13 first, followed 6-12 months later by a dose of PPSV23. Adults 65 years of age or older who have previously received PPSV23, should receive PCV13 at least 1 year after their most recent dose of PPSV23.

In addition to the new recommendation for pneumococcal vaccination of adults 65 years or older, it’s important to remember that pneumococcal vaccines are also recommended for adults 19 years or older with certain health conditions and lifestyles.

ACIP recommendations for the Use of 13-Valent Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine and 23-Valent Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine Among Adults Aged ≥65 Years are posted at [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6337a4.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6337a4.htm).

**Family Day & Health Fair**

For the past three years, the City and County of Santa Barbara have held an annual Free Family Day and Health Fair. During this time period, over 1,000 individuals have received various health screenings to increase their understanding of their health status, identify areas where further assessment and treatment are needed, and learn about how to protect their health and prevent future health conditions. In addition to the health screenings, more than 50 community organizations and county providers brought free information and resources to share.

The Free Family Day and Health Fair included health screenings in areas vital to overall health. In 2014*, the results included:

- Body Mass Index – 75% of adults and 46% of children were in the overweight or obese categories
- Vision – 35% of adults and 15% of children require follow-up services
- Dental – 44 adults were found to have gingivitis, 36 were found to have periodontitis and large number of adults and children had visible tooth decay
- Hearing – 17% of adults require follow-up services

* 315 individuals attended in 2014, but did not participate in every screening station.