Although it is not likely that a resident of Santa Barbara County will have Ebola, our community will be prepared to respond to a suspect case in a manner that serves the potentially ill person as well as protects others in the community. The Public Health Department (PHD) has been planning and preparing with our healthcare partners including emergency medical service providers, hospitals, laboratories, and outpatient clinics and providers.

We have:
- Led regular teleconference meetings where timely information is shared and planning efforts are coordinated
- Created screening tools, procedures and protocols
- Implemented an Ebola information phone line (805) 681-4373 or 1-888-722-6358
- Disseminated information and guidance to healthcare providers
- Planned for an Ebola exercise on November 20th including partners throughout our community to test our preparedness
- Developed a response that involves immediate consultation with the Health Officer
- Trained on how to don and doff personal protective equipment
- Created and trained an Ebola Response Team

The PHD is pleased to work as a team with many strong healthcare partners to support the health and well-being of our residents.

Every Woman Counts (EWC)

Every Woman Counts (EWC) provides breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services at no cost. Low income, uninsured, or underinsured women are all eligible for EWC.

Eligible women diagnosed with cancer can receive treatment and reconstruction with designated specialists in Santa Barbara County. In 2013, 3,680 Santa Barbara County (SBC) women received lifesaving care through EWC.

EWC provides local clinical (CME) education opportunities. Cervical cancer screening and diagnostic follow-up will be offered by U. C. Davis in San Luis Obispo on February 27, 2015. (For enrollment: https://qap.sdsu.edu or call (805) 681-4956)

For program information: EWC Tri-Counties office at the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (805) 681-4783.
Enterovirus D-68 in Santa Barbara County - Update

Enterovirus D-68 (EV-D68), first identified in California in 1962, is one of more than 100 non-polio enteroviruses. Anyone can get infected with non-polio enteroviruses. Infants, children, and teenagers are more likely to get infected and become sick because they do not yet have immunity (protection) from previous exposures to the viruses. EV-D68 likely spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or touches a surface that is then touched by others.

This year the number of people reported with confirmed EV-D68 infection is much greater than reported in previous years. As of October 17, 2014, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has identified EV-D68 infection in a total of 43 patients. As of 11/6/2014, Santa Barbara County has received 27 reports of suspected EV-D68 cases all within the last 5 weeks with only 1 case confirmed. It takes up to two weeks to confirm through laboratory testing.

CDPH and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department continue to monitor respiratory disease activity statewide and encourage medical providers to assist by:

1. **Consider EV-D68** as a possible cause of acute, unexplained severe respiratory illness. Fever may be absent.
2. **Test** for influenza, RSV, enterovirus, and rhinovirus in persons in whom EV-D68 is under consideration.
3. **Collect and submit specimens** according to guidelines referenced below.
4. **Report to Disease Control via CalREDIE** – All suspected or confirmed cases of EV-D68 patients with severe respiratory disease requiring hospitalization (ICU), fatalities and outbreaks.

**Testing for EV-D68**

- Contact the Santa Barbara County Public Health Lab at (805) 681-5255 **BEFORE submitting specimens**. We will coordinate submission to CDPH. Do not send specimens directly to CDPH.
- A minimum of 0.7 mL of original respiratory specimen (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab, oropharyngeal swab, endotracheal aspirate) is required for EV-D68 testing.

Although there is no specific treatment for persons with EV-D68 nor is there a vaccine to prevent it, education on how to prevent transmission of enteroviruses is essential. The best way to prevent transmission of enteroviruses is to:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after changing diapers
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid kissing, hugging, and sharing cups with people who are sick
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs

Please visit the Santa Barbara County Provider Alert for more information: [http://www.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/phd/dc/2014-10-06%20Enterovirus%20D68%20October%202014.pdf](http://www.countyofsb.org/uploadedFiles/phd/dc/2014-10-06%20Enterovirus%20D68%20October%202014.pdf)

Epidemiology Data Reports

Throughout the year, the Public Health Department Epidemiology Program updates and creates reports presenting disease trends in Santa Barbara County. The most recent upload (occurring on a bi-monthly basis) was the SBC Seasonal Influenza Report which compiles data retrieved from sentinel providers, emergency departments, laboratories, CalREDIE and Vital Records. All of these data reports are available to the public at [http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/epi/](http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/epi/).

Visit the Santa Barbara Public Health Department Epidemiology website for archived newsletters: [http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/epi.aspx?id=23604](http://www.countyofsb.org/phd/epi.aspx?id=23604)