Annex D. Air and Ground Transportation

**Air Medical Transportation**

**Purpose**
The purpose of this annex is to establish how the State of Alaska will support air medical transport coordination of a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

**Situation**
Air transport is a vital component of travel within Alaska. Given the vast distance between locations and the fact that many communities are accessible only by air or water, air transport is a necessary planning element when preparing for any type of emergency in Alaska.

Although the risk of a patient with EVD presenting within Alaska is lower than in most states due to our comparatively small population and the small number of people living in Alaska from the affected West African countries, one or more cases of EVD could occur in Alaska throughout the course of this unprecedented EVD epidemic. Therefore, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has reached out to multiple air medical transport entities to engage critical partners in the EVD patient transportation planning process.

**Partners**
Resources and procedures described in this plan were created in consultation with many air transport partners, including:

- Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER)
- The U.S. Coast Guard (District 17)
- Airlift Northwest
- Guardian Flight
- LifeFlight Air Ambulance
- LifeMed Alaska
- Phoenix Air

**Assumptions**
- The Section of Epidemiology will serve as the first point-of-contact for caregivers who have a suspected EVD patient (907-269-8000), and the lead state agency regarding Ebola surveillance, and case/contact investigations.
- The Section of Emergency Programs serves as the coordinating entity to ensure all partners are working together to communicate needs and resources regarding care for a patient with Ebola, while also maintaining caregiver and public health safety.
- All air medical transport entities that are partners in this plan are aware of the CDC Guideline *Air Medical Transport for Patients with EVD*. 
• If air medical transport is requested, the Sections of Epidemiology and Emergency Programs will be actively working with all parties involved in patient care to assure robust communication.

**Procedures**
The procedures described in this plan pertain to air medical transport only. It is assumed that all other steps have taken place to transport the patient to initial care, and to isolate and coordinate care for the patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola.

**Step 1**
• When it is suspected that an individual may have EVD, the Section of Epidemiology (907-269-8000) should be the first point of contact.

**Step 2**
• Air medical transport of a patient with suspected or confirmed EVD will be coordinated with the Section of Emergency Programs via the 24-hour Health and Medical Duty Officer (907-903-3721).
• When requesting air medical transport for a patient with suspected EVD, the requesting party must provide information about the patient’s exposure history and current symptoms.

**Step 3**
• The Section of Emergency Programs will engage in ongoing planning and will maintain current information from air transport entities operating within Alaska.
• Upon receiving a call requesting air medical transport of a patient with suspected or confirmed EVD, the Section of Emergency Programs will contact the appropriate air transport entity based upon their current reported capabilities.
• While the Section of Emergency Programs makes the initial call to the air transport entity, the air transport entity and the facility currently providing patient care will have direct contact to ensure that all required air medical transport procedures are followed.

**Step 4**
• Preparation for safe transport of a patient with suspected or confirmed EVD takes more time than is usually needed for air transport to respond to a call for assistance.
• The Section of Emergency Programs will work with the air transport entity and the facility providing care to the patient to ensure that information regarding timelines for transport is conveyed to all critical partners.

**Step 5**
• Throughout all aspects of the air medical transport process, the Section of Emergency Programs will work with all entities to ensure that information regarding challenges, unexpected delays, and final patient disposition are communicated to necessary parties.
In collaboration with CDC, the Section of Epidemiology will provide recommendations regarding disinfecting conveyances after patient transport. Some information is currently available online (see: http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-air-medical-transport-patients.html).

Ground Medical Transportation

Purpose
The purpose of this annex is to establish how the State of Alaska will support ground medical transport coordination of a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Situation
Ground transport is a vital component of travel within Alaska. Though the risk of a patient with EVD presenting within Alaska is lower than in most states due to our comparatively small population overall and the small number of people living in Alaska from the affected West African countries, it is important to be proactive and plan for a possible case of EVD in Alaska. Therefore, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services has reached out to the Emergency Medical Services system to engage critical partners in the patient transportation planning process.

Partners
Resources and procedures described in this plan were created in consultation with the following ground transport partners:
- Section of Emergency Programs: Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Assumptions
This annex was created using the following assumptions:
- Local jurisdictions determine whether 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)/dispatchers ask questions related to Ebola Virus Disease and its risk factors.
- PSAPs and EMS will follow their normal procedures.
- The Section of Epidemiology will be notified as soon as possible if PSAP or EMS staff become aware of a patient with a travel history and signs/symptoms compatible with EVD.
- The Section of Emergency Programs serves as the coordinating entity to ensure all partners are working together to communicate needs and resources regarding care for a suspected or confirmed patient with EVD, while also maintaining caregiver and public health safety, after Section of Epidemiology is notified.
- The Section of Epidemiology is the lead state agency in regards to EVD patient planning, investigation, surveillance, and information dissemination.
- The Section of Epidemiology will serve as the first point of contact for prehospital providers who have a suspected or confirmed patient with EVD.
- All ground medical transport entities who are partners in this plan are aware of the CDC Guideline Interim Guidance for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 9-1-1- Public Health Answering Points (PSAPs) related to Ebola Virus Disease.

Last updated January 7, 2015
**Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for the Management of Patients with Known or Suspected EVD in the United States.**

**Procedures**
The procedures described in this plan pertain to ground medical transport from the point after the Section of Epidemiology is notified. It is assumed that all other steps have taken place to transport the patient from their homes or original location to the initial point of care and to isolate and coordinate care for the patient with suspected or confirmed EVD.

**Step 1**
- When it is suspected that an individual may have EVD, the Section of Epidemiology (907-269-8000) should be immediately contacted.

**Step 2**
- Preparation for safe ground transport of a patient with suspected or confirmed EVD may take more time than is usually needed for ground transport to respond to a call for assistance.
- The Section of Emergency Programs will work with the ground transport entity, as well as the parties involved in currently providing care to the patient, to ensure that information regarding timelines for transport is conveyed to the appropriate partners.

**Step 3**
- Throughout all aspects of the ground medical transport process, from the initial point of care to a higher level of care, the Section of Emergency Programs will work with all entities to ensure that information regarding challenges, unexpected delays, and final patient disposition are communicated to necessary parties.
- In collaboration with CDC, the Section of Epidemiology will provide recommendations regarding disinfecting conveyances after patient transport. Some information is currently available online (see: [http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-air-medical-transport-patients.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-air-medical-transport-patients.html)).