Update on BJH/WUSM preparedness October 19, 2014

Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University leadership want to ensure that we keep you updated on the plan for any patients with known or suspected Ebola. We currently have no cases of known or suspected Ebola at BJH. The BJH Incident Command Center is on a “monitoring” level.

Update on Training for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The safety of our team members and physicians is our highest priority and there have been many questions regarding training on PPE. We have heard concerns from individuals and groups who are asking if they will receive training. No team member or physician will be allowed to treat a suspected or confirmed Ebola patient unless they have been trained.

We continue to train in areas likely to have the highest risk for a potential Ebola patient to present for treatment. The highest risk areas are the emergency department and 84ICU. Core groups of “super users” in these areas have been trained and will continue to drill and participate in exercises to hone their skills in donning and doffing (putting on and removing) PPE. In addition to these “super users” who would be deployed in an actual or suspected case of Ebola, the rest of the staff has either received training, or has been identified for training that will take place this week.

The next tier of training is the Center for Outpatient Health clinics, BJH pregnancy assessment center and some Washington University clinics. The staff that needs to be trained has been identified and that training will begin this week.

For ancillary teams such as laboratory, environmental services, respiratory care and radiology, team members who will need training have been identified and that training will continue this week.

If you are unsure if you will need training or have any questions, please speak to your manager. We are committed to ensuring our team members are prepared and there will be opportunities to exercise and drill as we perfect using PPE.

Status of CDC PPE recommendations

We are still awaiting the new PPE guidelines from the CDC and will incorporate into our training as soon as we have read and processed the protocols.

How can I get more information about Ebola?

We will be providing frequent email updates to you and a BJHnet intranet site will be available Monday morning and a Faculty Practice Plan site is under development. In addition, you can access more information at the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola.