Oct 22 Information Session: UCSF Ebola Preparedness

Dear Colleagues:

The recent transmission of Ebola Virus Disease (EDV) to two health care workers in Dallas has highlighted the need for us to assess our preparedness at UCSF Medical Center and to carefully consider the best location for isolation of patients with confirmed or suspected EVD should the need arise. An information session has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, from 11:00am-12:00pm on Parnassus in Toland Hall to discuss UCSF’s Ebola preparedness, specifically as it relates to patient care. This session will be recorded, and made available to those who cannot attend. While the discussion will contain specific information and details related to patient care, it is open to the UCSF community. Please note that a Town Hall regarding UCSF’s response also is scheduled for this Friday, October 24.

After careful consideration, it has been decided that the Mount Zion (MZ) ICU is the best location for an isolation unit. Much research into the programs and units at Emory and Nebraska, as well as internal work to assure that the unit will have adequate facilities, equipment and resources to assure patient and staff safety took place prior to this decision. Renovation of the MZ unit will allow us to most safely care for infected patients while maintaining the infection control practices that are needed to keep our providers, staff, other patients and our community safe. Because the census in the MZ ICU is typically low, it also creates less disruption than use of a unit at Parnassus.

A temporary isolation space has already been constructed and, pending discussions with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, we will begin construction of a permanent unit. We expect that this work can proceed without disrupting the current MZ ICU census. If a patient with suspected EVD presents to UCSF, all patients in the MZ ICU will be re-located as well as all patients and services on the 4E nursing unit. Care on the 5th floor of the hospital and in all adjoining spaces and facilities will continue as usual and we will assure that the environment is safe for all staff and patients in these areas.

EVD adult, obstetric and pediatric inpatients will be cared for in the MZ isolation unit and will be treated by providers who are specifically trained in the use of PPE. Plans are being finalized for safe laboratory testing and waste management. A designated Ebola team, consisting of volunteer nurses and faculty physicians, is being identified and will receive extensive training for the care of Ebola inpatients. Access to the unit will be tightly restricted and monitored.

Please contact Adrienne Green at adrienne.green@ucsfmedctr.org or 353-2823, if you have questions. Other information can be found on UCSF’s Ebola Response web site at http://www.ucsf.edu/ebola

Thanks for your help and understanding in this difficult situation.

Sincerely,

Josh Adler, MD  Adrienne Green, MD  Ken Jones  Sheila Antrum, RN
Chief Medical Officer  Associate Chief Medical Officer  Chief Operating Officer  Chief Nursing and Patient Care
UCSF Medical Center  UCSF Medical Center  UCSF Medical Center  UCSF Medical Center