QUARANTINE

IT CAN HAPPEN HERE (and probably should)

Gregory Cassis FP-C, JD
One slide about me

• 20 years in EMS
• 7 years practicing law
• 1 year on a helicopter
• This is information, not legal advice. Get a lawyer if you are being quarantined and want to challenge the finding.

• The opinions in this lecture are my own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of any organization with which I am affiliated.

• This is a changing field. Things may be different in a few years.
• Define quarantine and isolation.

• Discuss recent pandemics

• Understand the law concerning quarantine in Virginia.

• Explain how to report public health concerns.

GOALS
Total Deaths: 11,314

- Heart Disease: 13,144
- Lung Cancer: 3,491
- Diabetes: 1,620
- Flu/Pneumonia: 1,110
- Motor Vehicle: 740
- Guns: 705
- Unintentional Fall: 602
- Ebola: 1
EBOLA basics

A person infected with Ebola can’t spread the disease until symptoms appear. The time from exposure to when signs or symptoms of the disease appear (the incubation period) is 2 to 21 days, but the average time is 8 to 10 days. Signs of Ebola include fever and symptoms like severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, or unexplained bleeding or bruising.

Ebola is spread through direct contact with blood and body fluids.

Ebola is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or through your eyes, nose, or mouth) with blood and body fluids (like urine, feces, saliva, vomit, sweat, and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola.

Objects (like needles) that have been contaminated with the blood or body fluids of a person sick with Ebola.

Ebola is not spread through the air, water, or food.
• Current laws enacted in 2004.

• A few amendments since.

• Prescribe procedures for isolation and quarantine.

• Authorize the VDH to create regulations.

**Virginia laws are not recent.**
Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome
• Has caused far more confirmed deaths than any other disease we will discuss today.

• 2009 H1N1 outbreak caused over 19,633 deaths worldwide, over 3000 in the United States.*
GET YOUR FLU SHOT!
• Va Code Title 32.1 Chapter 2

• 12 VAC 5-90-10 to 12 VAC 5-90-107

Law in Virginia
There are also federal laws and regulations.

In addition to the states, the CDC has the power to prevent movement of communicable disease.
Reportable Diseases

- Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- Amebiasis *Anthrax
- Arboviral infection (e.g., dengue, EEE, LAC, SLE, WNV)
- *Botulism *Brucellosis
- Campylobacteriosis
  Chancroid
  Chickenpox (Varicella) *Chlamydia trachomatis infection
  *Cholera
  Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease if <55 years of age
  Cryptosporidiosis
  *Diphtheria
  *Disease caused by an agent that may have been used as a weapon
  *Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis
  *Escherichia coli infection, Shiga toxin-producing
  *Giardiasis
  Gonorrhea
  Granuloma inguinale
  *Haemophilus influenzae infection, invasive
  *Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome
  Hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) *Hepatitis A
  Hepatitis B (acute and chronic) *Hepatitis C (acute and chronic)
  Hepatitis, other acute viral
  Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
  infection
  *Influenza
  *Influenza-associated deaths in children <18 years of age
  Lead, elevated blood levels
  Legionellosis
  Leprosy (Hansen disease) Listeriosis
  Lyme disease Lymphogranuloma venereum Malaria
  *Measles (Rubeola) *Meningococcal disease *Monkeypox
  *Mumps
  *Ophthalmia neonatorum
  *Outbreaks, all (including but not limited to foodborne, healthcare-associated, occupational, toxic substance-related and waterborne)
  *Pertussis
  *Plague
  *Poliovirus infection, including poliomyelitis *Psittacosis
  *Q fever
  *Rabies, human and animal
  Rabies treatment, post-exposure *Rubella, including congenital rubella
  *Salmonellosis
  *Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) Shigellosis
  *Smallpox (Variola)
  Spotted fever rickettsiosis
  *Streptococcus pneumoniae infection,
  *Streptococcal disease, Group A, invasive or toxic shock
  *Syphilis by rapid means
  *Tetanus
  *Typhoid/Paratyphoid fever
  *Unusual occurrence of disease of public health concern
  *Vaccinia, disease or adverse event *Vibrio infection
  *Viral hemorrhagic fever
  *Yellow fever
  *Yersiniosis
• SARS
• Viral hemorrhagic fever
• Anthrax
• Tuberculosis
• Creutzfeldt-Jacob

High Profile Diseases are on the List
STDs

Common infections

Rare diseases

- Gonorrhea
- HIV
- Syphilis
- Hepatitis
- VRE
- *Staph* infection
- Smallpox

**Also**
• No required reporting*
• Don’t worry about the list.

• 3 main categories of required reporters:
  • Physicians
  • Lab Directors
  • Healthcare facility directors

Am I required to report?
• Generally hospitals are better equipped to report.

• If a patient does not seek hospital treatment, and is strongly suspected of having a communicable disease, reporting may be necessary.

• Report to your local health district.

Can I Report? - YES
• NO.

• All power to isolate and quarantine someone rests with the Health Commissioner.

• Local Health Districts and providers report to the Department of Health who takes necessary action.
If I’m quarantined, do I get free care?

• NO

• The law specifically says you are not relieved of your requirement to pay for treatment.
If I’m quarantined, will they put me up in a nice hotel?

• Maybe.

• You might just be stuck at your house.
• Va Code defined procedure with several options.

• After receiving two reports or verifiable medical evidence the VDH may start an investigation.

• After completing the investigation they may issue an order.
• Request that the person come to a local health office for counseling.

• In the case of serious airborne diseases may issue a 48 emergency custody order.
• Zombie Bill keeps biting people.

• He is asked to come into the office to discuss his behavior.
• The Commissioner will then ask a District Court to issue a Temporary Detaining Order until a hearing.

• By law detention will not take place in a jail.

Zombie's Don't Listen
Hearings
May be telephonic or video
1. The person is infected with a communicable disease of public significance
2. The person is engaging in at risk behavior.
3. The person has demonstrated an intentional disregard for the health of the public by placing others at risk.
4. There is no reasonable alternative means of reducing the risk to the public health.
• Isolation can be ordered for up to 120 days.

• If necessary an additional hearing can be held to order additional isolation
• Will be for the minimum length necessary.

• If conditions change the detainee can be released early.
• The detainee can appeal any decision to the Circuit Court.

• A new hearing will be held.

Appeal Rights
• Isolation can take place in the person’s home.

• Electronic monitoring may be required.

• Counseling can be required
• Class I Misdemeanor (punishable by up to a year in jail) to disobey an Order of the Commissioner.

• May also be subject to Contempt of Court charges.
• State of enforced isolation

• Restraint upon activities designed to prevent the spread of disease.

• Term during which a ship arriving in port is held in isolation from the shore.
Quarantine fear

- State of being stuck inside a plastic bubble for a month just because I transported a guy with a weird cough
• Can be used to contain anyone EXPOSED to a communicable disease.
• Isolation is for those confirmed to have a disease.
• If necessary an order is written by the Commissioner.

• Delivered by law enforcement, health department or other designated person.
• A judge will be asked to review any involuntary order.

• A full hearing can be requested by the detainee and will be heard within 48 hours.

Review
• Quarantine occurs in the least restrictive environment.

• People being quarantined are never held with people undergoing isolation.

• Minimum length necessary.
“Doctors Without Borders nurse Kaci Hickox will disobey Ebola quarantine.”
• Kaci Hickox spent a month in Sierra Leone treating ebola patients.

• Returned to Newark NJ on Oct 24, 2014.

• Told screeners she had been in contact with ebola. May have had a temperature.

• Held at the airport and then in a tent outside a hospital for 2 days.

• Tested negative for ebola.
• Screening does take place at Dulles airport.

• Risk is stratified:
  ▪ No risk
  ▪ Low Risk
  ▪ Some risk
  ▪ High risk

Virginia - Dulles
Low Risk

• Asked to maintain once a day phone/email contact for 21 days.

• No travel restrictions but asked to report long distance travel.
• Asked to avoid crowds

• Asked to remain in Virginia

• Asked to avoid schools

• Restricted from public transportation

• Twice a day follow up / once in person

Some risk
• Asked to sign a voluntary quarantine order.

• Essentially asks the person to self quarantine in lieu of an official court order.
Anyone with fever will be offered transport to designated facility for further testing.
Designated facilities

- Wide variety of facilities (now 55 nationwide).
- Some have increased training for staff.
- Others have dedicated facilities (see left list)
• Minimum number of providers interact with the patient.

• Remove unnecessary equipment from the ambulance before transport.

Avoiding quarantine
• Clean thoroughly
• Bleach everything
• Or let it sit for 21 days.
• You and your partner transport a zombified man.
• Your partner gets bitten.
• You have a small imprint that doesn’t break the skin.

Zombie Bite
• Your partner is detained and placed in isolation after he tries to eat his nurse.

• You are placed on 2 week quarantine.
• You appeal to a judge who declines to release you.

• You are quarantined at home. A VDH worker comes to visit wearing body armor once a day.

• After 2 weeks of sleeping in and binge watching TV you are released.
What if 1000 people are exposed?

- Governor needs to declare a state of emergency.
- The commissioner can then quarantine a geographic area.
• Outbreak of pertussis at symposium.

• Norfolk fire transports 8 to the hospital overnight.

• The Commissioner is notified once the nature of the illness is confirmed.
• 6AM governor declares a state of emergency.

• Commissioner then quarantines the Marriott, the Sheraton, any workers or symposium registrants.

Quarantine
• People notice they are not allowed to leave to go to Starbucks. Crankiness ensues.

• Notices are distributed describing the quarantine.

• Initial quarantine period is for 21 days. However, a judge allows quarantine to be dropped for anyone who can produce vaccination records.
• 7 more people develop symptoms and are treated in a special wards in local hospitals.

• Everyone else returns home refreshed after a long break.
• Increased air travel to increasing areas of the world creates a greater global risk.

• Increased awareness demands greater response from the public.

Future?