The First Diagnosed Case of Ebola in the US

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Ebola only a plane ride away from USA

USA Today, July 28th
Guidelines for Evaluation of US Patients Suspected of Having Ebola Virus Disease
More Ebola Related Activity

August 5th

DoD granted an EUA for their Ebola Zaire (EZ1 rRT-PCR) test
More Ebola Related Activity

August 6th

CDC LRN would make the DoD Ebola PCR test available to a few of their labs.
CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN)

Highest level characterization (Federal)

Molecular assays, reference capacity, confirmation, and transport

Rule-out and forward organisms
Getting Ready for Ebola

• Communication and coordination both internal and external to the laboratory

• Performed laboratory risk assessment for testing of Ebola specimens
Training, Training, Training
The First Real Sample

• Specimens arrived at DSHS and CDC via commercial carrier at about the same time
• Test results for the DSHS test and the CDC test were ready almost at the same time
• AND THE RESULTS MATCHED!
More Testing

• Subsequent specimens arrived at unusual hours requiring 24 hour operations
• Developed a mini surge plan to help with specimens arriving at all times
• Two more specimens would arrive at DSHS that would be the first and second cases of Ebola Zaire acquired in the US
Packaging & Shipping

• Ebola suspect specimens had to be packaged as an infectious substance affecting humans
  – Category A – UN 2814
  – Shipped cold (4 C)

• Some commercial carriers would not ship Ebola suspect specimens
Coordination Was Key

• Coordination with CDC
• Planning with our epidemiologists and development of an algorithm for test requests
• Using the network Texas LRN laboratories