



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

Date: December 31, 2014
From: David Bell, MD
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Subject: Request for OMB Paperwork Reduction Act Emergency Review
To: Cortney Higgins, PhD
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Through: Leroy Richardson, MS, MPH, MSCJ, CPHA
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Pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established under 5 CFR 1320, Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public, the CDC requests that the following collection of information, "Ebola Transmission Dynamics among Household Contacts in West Africa: Test Case—Western Area, Sierra Leone," be processed in accordance with Section 1320.13 Emergency Processing. This information collection is essential to CDC's mission to support the 2014 Ebola Virus Response in West Africa. The CDC cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) because delays in information collection are likely to result in continued or increased public harm, illness, and death. Sierra Leone now has the greatest number of confirmed cases of any of the affected countries, and its Western Area has one of the highest incidence rates in Sierra Leone.

The CDC seeks to augment the established Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOH) Ebola virus disease (EVD) surveillance system. Transmission of the Ebola virus in the rural areas of Sierra Leone typically occurs through attending funerals, participating in unsafe burial practices, and to a lesser extent, through household transmission. In a densely populated area, such as Western Area, Sierra Leone, it is unknown if household contact is a major route of transmission. The CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Task Force requests to assist the MOH further investigate transmission risk factors for the Ebola virus disease (EVD) specifically among household contacts of index case-patients in Western Area, Sierra Leone. This information collection will supplement the existing EVD surveillance system. Project interviewers will conduct more detailed surveys on the same visits with the MOH contact tracing teams.

The information gained will enable the MOH to implement improved control measures to prevent further spread of EVD within its country's affected households. Knowing the age of highest risk of household transmission, risk factors among household contacts and exposures as well as the time period of greatest transmissibility will assist in creating and targeting public health interventions to decrease spread of the disease. These public health interventions may be applied to control the current outbreak and efficiently contain future outbreaks.

The start date for interviewer training is January 26, 2015 and CDC wishes to pilot test its instruments prior to seeking OMB emergency approval. Information collection is anticipated to last for three months after OMB approval is granted.

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