



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

NEWS RELEASE

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John R. Kasich, Governor

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALL OHIO HOSPITALS HAVE PERFORMED EBOLA PREPAREDNESS DRILLS

Training for Staff Includes Managing a Possible Ebola Case and Putting On, Taking Off Personal Protective Equipment

COLUMBUS – Following a request by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), 100 percent of Ohio hospitals have now completed Ebola preparedness and response drills, including training in how to manage a suspect Ebola-positive patient and the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

There are no confirmed cases of Ebola in Ohio and none of the 163 people currently being monitored in Ohio have shown any Ebola symptoms, but hospitals should be prepared.

"Our hospital partners are doing their part to be prepared in case they have to treat a patient with Ebola," said ODH Director Richard Hodges. "Training in how to manage an Ebola patient and the proper use of personal protective equipment is essential to ensure Ohio hospitals and their frontline staff are confident in their ability to safely care for Ebola patients."

"Ohio hospitals have taken decisive action to conduct and complete training drills as part of their ongoing efforts to prepare for a potential Ebola patient, and the Ohio Hospital Association is actively engaged with our members and partners to address this public health threat," said Mike Abrams, president and chief executive officer of the Ohio Hospital Association.

Last week, in order to ensure Ohio hospitals are prepared to handle a potential Ebola patient, Hodges called on all Ohio hospitals to conduct a series of training and practice drills. The drills include instruction for frontline patient-contact staff on how to properly receive, isolate and implement proper infection control practices for a potential Ebola patient, as well as how to properly put on and remove personal protective equipment.

ODH also asked hospitals to assess their stock of personal protective equipment to ensure they have an adequate capacity to protect their staff.

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Much has been accomplished since Wednesday, Oct. 15, when Ohio was notified by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that a Dallas nurse who visited northeast Ohio Oct. 10-13 tested positive for Ebola on Oct. 14 after returning to Dallas. Ohio immediately began working with local health officials to activate Ebola preparedness efforts that it began developing in mid-summer. Additionally, ODH:

- Requested the CDC send a response team to support state and local efforts to identify anyone with whom the nurse may have had contact with while in Ohio. The team arrived early Thursday morning;
- Worked with Ohio infectious disease experts to develop recommended quarantine protocols that build on published CDC guidelines;
- Recommended that all Ohio hospitals conduct repeated training drills with frontline health care staff on how to manage an Ebola patient and put on and remove personal protective equipment. More information is available [here](#); and
- Activated a 24-hour-a-day call center to answer questions about Ebola and Ohio's response. The telephone number is 1-866-800-1404. Information about Ebola is also available on the ODH website at www.odh.ohio.gov and the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

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CHRONOLOGY

- Oct. 22 **Representatives from ODH, CDC, Ohio Hospital Association and local health departments provided a briefing** to media providing an update of the situation and summarizing the first week's response efforts.
- Oct. 21 **ODH continued assessing new CDC guidance** for proper protective equipment when treating potential cases of Ebola and is identifying sources capable of providing all necessary equipment.
- Nearly 100 percent of all major Ohio hospitals** have reported completing required drills needed to evaluate procedures to properly treat suspected and confirmed cases of Ebola.
- Oct. 20 **ODH voiced support for new steps by Summit County** to protect first responders and health care workers required to respond to a request for help from someone currently quarantined or monitored for possible Ebola exposure.
- The state Controlling Board approved ODH's request** to purchase up to \$300,000 in new personal protective equipment and spend up to \$500,000 for any cleanup and disposal of any contaminated linens and other items that may be generated by suspected or confirmed Ebola patients

- Oct. 19: **ODH began issuing a daily report** summarizing the number of individuals who have been found to have contact of some type with the Dallas nurse who was in Northeast Ohio, Oct. 10-13.
- Oct. 18: **Press conference held** in Akron with Gov. John R. Kasich, Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor and several federal, state and local doctors, health care professionals and elected officials to update the public on the status of Ohio's Ebola response.
- Oct. 17: **ODH announced** it is adding to current stockpiles of health care protective equipment for frontline health care workers.
- Oct. 16: **ODH participates** in a media briefing in Summit County with state, local and federal partners.
- State Health Director Rick Hodges notified** Ohio hospitals asking that they conduct a series of training and practice drills within two days to ensure Ohio hospitals are prepared to handle a potential Ebola patient.
- Gov. Kasich talked with President Barack Obama**, thanking him for the CDC support staff, and informing him of Ohio's new, more aggressive quarantine measures. The President is supportive.
- State officials briefed CDC** on Ohio's Ebola response before travelling with the CDC to Summit County to assist with local efforts.
- ODH updated infectious disease experts** in Ohio and issued enhanced quarantine protocols for individuals with possible Ebola exposure.
- Oct. 15: **Gov. Kasich spoke** with US Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell and CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden, requesting CDC staff to support regional response efforts. As a result, CDC staff arrived in Ohio overnight.
- The state of Ohio activated** its Emergency Operation Center to manage Ohio's response, and initiated a 24-hour-a-day call center to answer Ohioans' questions about Ebola and the recent events.
- ODH deployed** state epidemiologist Dr. Mary DiOrio and other staff to Summit County to assist Ebola response efforts.
- CDC notified** ODH that Dallas nurse who tested positive for Ebola was in Summit County Oct. 10-13.
- Oct. 14: **State conducted** an Ebola-specific tabletop exercise and preparedness seminar with stakeholders including hospitals, physicians, nurses, EMS responders and local health departments.
- July-Pres.: **ODH shares Ebola preparedness** guidance with health care providers and local health departments.