



STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

NEWS RELEASE

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John R. Kasich, Governor

Emergency Management Agency

2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.

Columbus, Ohio 43235

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: State Joint Information Center (614) 799-6480

OHIO ADDING TO STOCKPILE OF HEALTH CARE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Ohio Department of Health seeks to be ready to support possible local needs across the state

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is adding to its stockpile of health care personal protective equipment in order to support any requests that may come from frontline health care providers treating suspected or confirmed cases of Ebola virus infection. Ohio has no cases of Ebola, but ODH will be ready to support local health care providers if a case is confirmed.

With a team of health care workers treating a single Ebola patient using as many as 240 sets of personal protective equipment *per day*, hospitals can quickly use up whatever stores they may have. ODH is adding to its already large stockpile in order to support whatever requests for support may come from local hospitals.

The Ohio Department of Health currently owns a stockpile of approximately 102,122 face masks, 2,592 goggles, 1,600 shoe covers, 576 coveralls, 1,350 hoods, 105,300 gloves, 29,220 respirators, and 7,026 gowns. These figures increase daily; however, as new shipments arrive. ODH is requesting approval to use \$300,000 in existing funds to acquire additional personal protective equipment. The request will be considered on Monday by the Controlling Board, a body comprised of bipartisan members of the General Assembly and an official from the Ohio Office of Budget and Management that meets every two weeks to help manage and approve the use of state funds. Hospitals also have their own stores and supply contracts to constantly replenish supplies while ODH has additional stores in regional warehouses.

“One of the state’s key missions is supporting our local health partners in the event they need additional supplies, and by adding to our already large stockpile we’ll be in as strong a position as possible to meet those needs,” said Dr. Mary DiOrio, state epidemiologist and interim chief of the ODH Bureau of Prevention and Health Promotion. “Governor Kasich has tasked Ohio’s public health team with taking an aggressive approach to our Ebola response efforts, ensuring that the state has a strong stockpile of protective equipment is in line with that. Up to this point our efforts have focused on northeast Ohio, but we will be ready to help any community statewide if necessary.”

ODH is also seeking authority to use up to \$500,000 for cleanup and disposal of any contaminated linens and other items that may be generated by an Ebola patient, either at their home or a health care facility. Safe disposal of such materials is essential to prevent additional exposure. ODH would support a local health department or health care facility in the event they requested additional support to safely dispose of contaminated material.

On Wednesday, Oct. 15 Ohio was notified by the 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 worked with local health officials to activate Ebola preparedness efforts that it began developing in mid-summer. Additionally, Ohio:

- Requested the CDC send a response team to support state and local efforts to identify anyone with whom the nurse may have had contact 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](#);
- 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. 16: State officials reached out to several stakeholders to update them on Ohio's Ebola response efforts.
- Press Conference held late Thursday afternoon in Summit County with state, local and federal partners.
- Gov. Kasich talks with President Barack Obama and thanks him for his help in getting CDC to Ohio. He also mentioned that Ohio has issued more aggressive quarantine measures and that the president supported our efforts.
- State officials brief CDC on Ohio's Ebola response efforts in Columbus, Ohio. CDC then left to help local efforts in Summit County.
- ODH in consultation with infectious disease experts across the state issues enhanced Ebola quarantine protocols for individuals in proximity of index cases.
- Oct. 15: CDC responds to Gov. John R. Kasich's request by agreeing to send staff to Ohio to help support Ohio's state and local Ebola response efforts.
- ODH deploys state epidemiologist Dr. Mary DiOrio and other staff to Summit County to assist with its efforts; participates in Summit County Public Health's news conference.
- Gov. Kasich talks with US Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell, as well as CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. Kasich requests CDC staff to be deployed to Ohio to assist with patient contact work.
- ODH notified by CDC that Dallas nurse who tested positive for Ebola was in Summit County Oct. 10-13.
- Oct. 14: Ohio conducts a tabletop exercise and preparedness seminar with health care partners representing hospitals, physicians, nurses, EMS responders and local health departments.

July-Pres.: ODH shares Ebola preparedness guidance with health care providers and local health departments.



COLUMBUS – Stockpile of health care personal protective equipment at ODH warehouse.

B Roll: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/o66e3343dzawssj/WarehouseBRoll.mov?dl=0>