



News Release

John R. Kasich/ Governor
Richard Hodges/ Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ohio Department of Health Working with Summit County Public Health Officials and Other Ohio Local Health Departments to Identify Patient Contacts

COLUMBUS – After learning this morning from the CDC that a Dallas nurse who has tested positive for Ebola was in Summit County Oct. 10-13, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) activated the Ebola response preparations that it began developing this summer with local health care officials.

ODH officials began working with Summit County health officials to:

- Contact the nurse's Summit County family members with whom she stayed;
- Begin identifying all those with whom the nurse may have had direct contact while in Ohio, and;
- Work with officials at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which, together with the airline, has begun identifying passengers on the nurse's flights. The Dallas nurse arrived from Dallas at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport on Oct. 10 on Frontier Airlines Flight 1142 and returned on Oct. 13 on Frontier flight 1143. Customers who may have traveled on either flight should contact CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Once all passengers have been identified, ODH will receive a list of airline passengers from Ohio. ODH will contact local health departments which will follow up with passengers who live in their jurisdictions to talk with them about their possible exposure and to determine whether any actions are necessary.

Additionally, at the request of Gov. John Kasich, the CDC has agreed to send an agency liaison to Ohio to facilitate work between Ohio and the CDC, as well as additional epidemiological staff to help state and local health care officials conduct contact tracing, the work of identifying people with whom the patient may have had contact.

"We've been preparing with our local health care partners for this possibility for several months and are putting that preparation into action now. Summit County's health department responded quickly and we're in constant contact with them to give them the support and resources they need," said Dr. Mary DiOrio, state epidemiologist and interim chief of the ODH Bureau of Prevention and Health Promotion. "We are in the process of identifying those people with whom this patient may have had close contact so we can monitor them and prevent any further spread of the disease. We're also continuing to update local health care providers so they can be on the look out with us for other possible cases."

For more information about Ebola, visit the ODH website at www.odh.ohio.gov or the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

CHRONOLOGY

Oct. 15: ODH notified by CDC that Dallas nurse who tested positive for Ebola was in Summit County Oct. 10-13.

ODH deploys state epidemiologist Dr. Mary DiOrio and other staff to Summit County to assist with its efforts.

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.

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 begins Ebola preparedness with guidance to health care providers.

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