



# STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

## NEWS RELEASE

[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

John R. Kasich, Governor

Emergency Management Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Ohio Department of Health Recommends Hospitals Conduct Ebola Preparedness Drill**

*Including Putting On, Taking Off, Personal Protective Equipment*

COLUMBUS – In order to ensure Ohio hospitals are prepared to handle a potential Ebola patient, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today recommended to Ohio hospitals that they conduct a series of training and practice drills within the next two days. The drill should 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.

"Part of our Ebola response has been to reach out to health care providers to understand their need. A recurring theme, particularly among nurses, was more training regarding the use of personal protective equipment," said Richard Hodges, director of the Ohio Department of Health.

ODH also asked hospitals to assess their stock of personal protective equipment to ensure they have an adequate supply and let ODH know if they require help meeting their needs.

Ohio public health officials were alerted by the CDC Wednesday morning that a Dallas nurse who tested positive for Ebola was in Ohio Oct. 10-13.

ODH has 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](http://www.odh.ohio.gov) and the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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### **CHRONOLOGY**

Oct. 16: 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.