



# 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 SECURES APPROVAL TO PURCHASE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

*Purchase adds to current stockpile for possible local needs across the state*

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) today received approval from the State Controlling Board to use \$300,000 in federal and state funds to add to its existing stockpile of health care personal protective equipment. Some of that stockpile has already been pre-positioned in Northeast Ohio in the event that it is needed. While Ohio has no cases of Ebola, the purchase will help support any requests that may come from frontline first responders and health care providers treating suspected or confirmed cases of Ebola virus infection.

“Governor Kasich has directed us to be prepared to quickly and aggressively respond to local needs, and the legislature’s approval of our request will ensure we can do this,” said Dr. Mary DiOrio, state epidemiologist and interim chief of the ODH Bureau of Prevention and Health Promotion.

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 as new shipments arrive. The funds approved by the Controlling Board will let ODH add to these numbers, or obtain other needed items.

The Controlling Board is 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.

The Controlling Board also approved the use of up to \$500,000 for cleanup and disposal of any contaminated linens and other items that may be generated by suspected or confirmed Ebola patients, either at their home or other locations. Safe disposal of such materials is essential to prevent additional exposure.

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

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## **OHIO CHRONOLOGY**

- 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.
- 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.

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

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

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