



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 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SUPPORTS NEW SUMMIT COUNTY EFFORTS TO INFORM, PROTECT FIRST RESPONDERS AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS

New Protocol for Transporting, Managing Possible Ebola Patient "Careful and Well-Considered"

COLUMBUS -- Today the Ohio Department of Health voiced its support for new coordinated steps by Summit County to protect first responders and health care workers in the event that they are required to respond to a request for help from someone currently quarantined or monitored for possible Ebola exposure.

ODH State Epidemiologist Dr. Mary DiOrio issued the follow statement:

"The protocol is the right move to protect first responders and health care workers, and it is careful and well-considered. It is in line with the aggressive approach we are all taking to deal with the situation. I am glad that Summit County Health Commissioner Gene Nixon coordinated its quick creation and implementation after local leaders, especially Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic, called for it. That type of quick responsiveness and coordination is critically important as we continue to work together to keep Ohioans safe."

A joint statement by Summit County officials on the new protocol can be found [here](#).

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 and the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

OHIO CHRONOLOGY

- 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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