

PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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Public Information
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The Portage County Health Department has been working with the Ohio Department of Health, Portage County Emergency Management Agency, and Robinson Memorial Hospital since summer to make sure that those on the frontlines of response—local doctors, EMS, and hospitals have the information and resources they need on Ebola. As of October 15, 2014, Ohio has activated its Ebola preparedness plan.

At this time, because the nurse who tested positive for Ebola visited Summit County on October 10-13, Portage County Health Department (PCHD) is following the lead of Summit County Public Health (SCPH). An Ebola information line has been set up and can be reached at 330-926-3939 as well as Ohio Department of Health's Ebola call center at 1-866-800-1404.

After the preliminary investigation from SCPH, it appears as though the healthcare worker who had Ebola had limited social contact outside of a small number of family and friends. SCPH has not identified any public events or large public gatherings attended by the affected healthcare worker in Summit County or surrounding counties, including Portage County. There is no need to close schools or cancel events.

PCHD would encourage the public to get general information on Ebola from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/ebola, Ohio Department of Health at www.odh.gov/, and Portage County Health Department at www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm.

Facts about Ebola:

- Ebola is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus strains.
- Ebola is spread by touching the blood and body fluids of a person who is sick with Ebola, or things with their blood and body fluids on it like clothes and bedding. Ebola is not spread through the air, food, or water.
- Patients are contagious only when they are symptomatic and show signs of a fever. Symptoms include fever (greater than 101.5 F), severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, and unexplained bleeding or bruising.
- Anyone believing that they have been in contact with a person with Ebola should contact their health care provider.

Prevention for Ebola:

- Practice careful hygiene; including hand washing with soap and water.
- Do not handle items that may have come in contact with blood and body fluids.
- Seek medical care immediately if you develop a fever (greater than 101.5 F), severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, and unexplained bleeding or bruising and have had contact with someone who has been diagnosed with Ebola.