

PORTAGE COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

JOINT COMMAND TEAM

Portage County Health Department
Ravenna City Health Department
Kent City Health Department

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Portage County continues health monitoring of identified contacts.

Portage County has NO cases of Ebola, and the threat of Ebola virus transmission in Portage County is extremely low. There are NO cases of Ebola in the state of Ohio. At this time, Portage County Health Department is currently tracking individuals who reside in Portage County who were in contact with the Dallas nurse. All of our contacts are healthy and none of these individuals are under quarantine.

Designated Information Officers at several community agencies have come together under a community response effort to ensure that we are communicating effectively between agencies and with the public about Ebola. This group also ensures that local residents, families, healthcare providers, and first responders have the most up-to-date information about Ebola. The agencies includes: Portage County Health Department, Kent City Health Department, Portage County Emergency Management Agency, Robinson Memorial Hospital, and Kent State University. The partners are engaged in the following activities:

- **Portage County Health Department** has identified contacts with the Dallas nurse and is fully engaged in monitoring the health status of its residents utilizing guidance from the Ohio Department of Health in this regard.
- **Kent City Health Department** is working diligently to resolve any issues of concern in their jurisdiction. They are actively communicating with all local partners and working with KSU to provide current information and guidelines for Ebola.
- **Portage County Emergency Management Agency** has activated their staff to put them on alert and to monitor the situation and coordinate efforts with relevant departments. The Portage County EMA drilled its Emergency Operations Center and is still in a prepared posture for possible activation if needed. An inventory count on emergency resources has been done. The Portage County EMA is committed to ensuring that the safety forces are adequately prepared and have been providing the needed education to safety forces and dispatch centers as they have been updated. EMA is continually updating the Portage Prepares social media outlets to alert county residents of the activities surrounding the Ebola monitoring in Portage County.
- **Robinson Memorial Hospital** Ebola Preparedness Committee meets daily to coordinate efforts. Drills have been conducted at its Emergency Department and Urgent Care Center in Streetsboro, simulating a suspect Ebola patient. The emergency department staff continues to train on detection, isolation and



proper personal protective equipment use as recommended by the CDC. Additional training of ancillary departments are rolled out in phases. A communication plan is in place for hospital inpatients, outpatients and staff. Robinson Memorial is working in concert with other acute care facilities in northeast Ohio to coordinate probable transport and care of an Ebola suspect patient. Daily communications are taking place with local health departments and acute care facilities for status updates and ongoing preparedness.

- **KSU University Health Services** has activated its internal Incident Command Structure on a small scale. Updated information continues to be posted on the KSU website and through direct communications with students, staff, and parents.

Information about Ebola infection?

- Ebola is a rare and potentially deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus strains.
- Ebola is spread by touching the blood and bodily fluids (including but not limited to urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola, or things with their blood and bodily 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 100.4 F)
 - severe headache
 - muscle pain
 - weakness
 - diarrhea
 - vomiting
 - stomach pain
 - unexplained bleeding or bruising
- **Coughing and sneezing are NOT symptoms of Ebola.** They are symptoms of the common cold or a respiratory virus, such as the flu.
- Anyone believing that they have been in contact with a person with Ebola should contact their health care provider.
- There is no FDA-approved vaccine or medicine to treat Ebola. However, treatment can be offered for symptom management, such as keeping the patient hydrated, maintaining normal oxygen and blood pressure, and treating other infections as they occur.

What can I do to make sure I don't catch Ebola?

- Ebola is spread through direct contact with blood and bodily fluids (including but not limited to urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, and semen) of an infected and symptomatic person. Wash your hands frequently **with soap and water** for 30-60 seconds.
- Do not handle items that may have come in contact with blood and bodily fluids.
- Seek medical care immediately if you develop a fever (greater than 100.4 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.

Where can I get more information?

- Ohio Department of Health's Ebola call center: 1-866-800-1404
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/ebola.
- Ohio Department of Health: www.odh.ohio.gov/.
- Portage County Health Department: www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm.
- Kent City Health Department: www.kentpublichealth.org.

- Follow Portage Prepares on Facebook and Twitter
- Summit County Public Health's Ebola information line at 330-926-3939 (Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm)