

PORTAGE COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

JOINT COMMAND TEAM

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From: Portage County Local Health Departments

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A Message for Portage County Businesses Regarding Ebola

At this time, based on the information collected by Summit County Public Health, there is no known threat to the public's health. The Portage County local health departments are not advocating for the closure of businesses or schools, nor for the cancellation of events.

Top Things Businesses Need to Know about Ebola

1. **Your patrons and staff are not at risk while conducting normal business in Portage County.** Ebola is not a foodborne, waterborne, or airborne illness. A risk for Ebola only comes when you come into close contact with the blood or bodily fluids of a person suffering from Ebola. The healthcare worker who visited Summit County did not visit Portage County.
2. **Ohio water is safe to use and drink.** Ebola is not a waterborne illness. Researchers believe that Ebola survives in water for only a matter of minutes. This is because water does not provide the same environment as our bodily fluids.
3. **Being near someone who is sick with Ebola does not mean you'll get infected.** The disease isn't contagious like the flu or common cold. You have to be in direct contact with a patient's bodily fluids or blood, and you have to have a break in your skin or have the fluids touch your eyes, mouth, or nose.
4. **Ebola does not live long on surfaces or outside someone's body.** Ebola is killed with hospital-grade disinfectants, such as household bleach. Soaps, detergents, and hand sanitizers are effective at killing the virus. Keeping your area clean and washing your hands will help prevent infections.
5. **There are currently no known cases of Ebola in Ohio.** The threat of Ebola virus transmission in Portage County is extremely low.

