

OHIO'S EBOLA PREPAREDNESS

Key Points

Ohio activated its Ebola preparedness plan when it learned that an Ebola patient visited the state: Ohio was notified Wednesday morning by the CDC that a Dallas nurse who has tested positive for Ebola visited Summit County on Oct. 10-13. Ohio has been planning for months for a possible Ebola incident and it put those plans in motion upon learning this information.

Ohio is taking an aggressive response to this situation: Learning from the experience in Dallas, Summit County is using its quarantine powers to isolate people that had confirmed close contact with the nurse—one person so far. Also, the Ohio Department of Health has sent epidemiologists to Summit County to support their work to identify people who had contact with the Dallas nurse. Also, Ohio and local health care officials are working with the CDC in order to receive the latest information on developments as well as to quickly learn about new recommendations for managing an Ebola patient.

Ohio and local health care officials have been preparing for Ebola since this summer: The Ohio Department of Health has been working since summer to make sure those on the frontlines—local doctors, EMS, hospitals and local health departments—have the information and resources they need. Officials from the Ohio Department of Health and local health care organizations recently came together to discuss the status of their preparedness efforts and to conduct a table top exercise to test the response to a hypothetical positive case. The CDC recently certified Ohio's high-security state health lab to be able to test for Ebola so that Ohio health care officials can get test results as quickly as possible. Ohio has a strong, statewide system of public health authorities at the county and city level, as well as a high-quality network of health care providers, and they all have experience dealing with infectious diseases and the resources and training to prepare for and respond to any serious outbreak.

Facts About Ebola:

- Ebola is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola virus strains. Ebola can cause disease in humans and nonhuman primates (monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees).
- 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.
- Anyone believing that they have been in contact with a person with Ebola should call their health care provider

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What You Need to Know about Ebola

The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history

While Ebola does not pose an imminent risk to Ohio residents, out of an abundance of caution the Ohio Department of Health is working with local health departments, hospitals, EMS responders, physicians, other health care professionals and state agencies to be prepared.

The first U.S. Ebola case (a traveler from West Africa) was diagnosed in Dallas, Texas on September 30.

Facts *about* Ebola in the U.S.

You can't get Ebola through air



You can't get Ebola through water



You can't get Ebola through food



A person infected with Ebola can't spread the disease until symptoms appear

The time from exposure to when signs or symptoms of the disease appear (the incubation period) is 2 to 21 days, but the average time is 8 to 10 days. Signs of Ebola include fever (higher than 100.4 F) and symptoms like severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising.

Ebola is spread through direct contact with blood and body fluids

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If you recently traveled to West Africa or had close contact with a person sick with Ebola, you may be at risk if you

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What you should do

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For more information