



# STATE OF OHIO

Emergency Operations Center

## NEWS RELEASE

[www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov)

John R. Kasich, Governor

Emergency Management Agency  
2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.  
Columbus, Ohio 43235

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 18, 2014**

Contact: State Joint Information Center (614) 799-6480

### **OHIO TAKES ITS EBOLA QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS UP ANOTHER NOTCH**

#### ***New Restrictions on Travel Designed To Ensure Health Monitoring Compliance, Protect Travelers***

COLUMBUS – Today the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) again strengthened the state’s recommended Ebola quarantine protocols to limit travel of people currently required to have their health condition monitored daily by a local health department and those required to report their health condition themselves to a local health department.

The new Ebola quarantine recommendations mean:

- Ohioans required to have a public health official monitor their health condition daily would be prohibited from leaving their health department’s jurisdiction unless the health department jurisdiction to which they are travelling agrees to assume that daily monitoring responsibility. If that agreement is not reached, the individual cannot travel and must keep their daily monitoring appointments in their home health department jurisdiction.
- Ohioans under verified self-monitoring requirements cannot leave the United States due to the inability to track them down in the event they fail to meet their daily reporting requirements.

“As we’ve seen, travel is a potential problem. It’s why the people of Ohio are dealing with the situation we have right now. We don’t want to take the slightest chance for this disease to potentially spread, we don’t want people in other places to have to deal with what we’re dealing with and we don’t want potentially sick Ohioans to go beyond the reach of the good care we know we have here at home in the unlikely event that they get sick,” said Dr. Mary DiOrio, state epidemiologist and interim chief of the ODH Bureau of Prevention and Health Promotion. “We’re taking an aggressive approach, no doubt about it, but it’s just common sense. Some might criticize us for being too aggressive, but we’re comfortable taking that criticism.”

Ohio’s revised quarantine protocols can be viewed [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](http://www.odh.ohio.gov) and the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

###

## **CHRONOLOGY**

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.

###