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**Editorial: Prudent Measures**

Ohio's health-care and political leaders are making prudent preparations to safeguard residents should any cases of Ebola arise. There will be aggressive monitoring, bigger stockpiles of protective gear, practice drills for medical providers on the front lines and funding available for safe disposal of contaminated supplies.

This is reassuring. Even if the likelihood of an Ebola outbreak is small, the state and the nation have no choice but to prepare for it.

The Ohio Department of Health on Monday got approval to spend up to \$800,000, of which \$300,000 will build a backup supply of protective suits and equipment for nurses, doctors and other medical-care providers. While hospitals already have their own stores of such supplies, a medical team easily can go through as many as 240 sets of protective equipment in a single day to treat a single Ebola patient.

The state already has 102,122 face masks, 2,592 goggles, 1,600 shoe covers, 576 coveralls, 1,350 hoods, 105,3000 gloves, 29,220 respirators and 7,026 gowns. The purchases assure that the state will have another 96-day supply of equipment on top of the current 16-patient-day supply.

Editorial continued here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2014/10/22/prudent-measures.html>