



For Immediate Release: JOINT STATEMENT from the Nebraska Hospital Association and the Nebraska Organization of Nurse Leaders

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Nebraska's hospitals and nurses work together to prepare for Ebola

LINCOLN — Ebola preparedness is something Nebraska's hospitals and their nursing partners are taking very seriously. Nurses often are the first to encounter a patient who may be showing signs of an infectious disease — it is critical that they, and all frontline health care providers, have the proper training, equipment and protocols to remain safe and care for the patient.

In the wake of the situation in Dallas, we understand the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is reviewing all the protocols and procedures involved, and will be continuously putting out updated guidance as new information is received and best practices are developed. As new CDC guidance is issued regarding Ebola preparedness procedures, we are working with our collective memberships to incorporate all of these updates into plans and protocols.

It is important to remember that this situation is very fluid and rapidly changing. Any amount of preparation will require adjustment as more is learned about how best to care for any patient who is infected with Ebola, while protecting our health care providers. We need to continue to be flexible as we receive new guidance. In the end, hospitals and nurses have the same goals in the face of any Ebola case: to ensure patients are appropriately cared for at the right time and the right place and that all hospital and clinical staff are safe in providing that care.

We are directing people - both from our membership ranks and the public - who have questions about the most recent Ebola guidance, information, and protocols to consult the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>.

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Lines of communication remain open between hospitals, nurses and our state public health authorities. We will all work together to keep information flowing through these important channels.

For more information please contact Adrian Sanchez, director of communications at the Nebraska Hospital Association, asanchez@NebraskaHospitals.org or (402) 742-8151, or Dee Ernesti, RN, MSN, CENP, president of the Nebraska Organization of Nurse Leaders, dee.ernesti@unmc.edu or (402) 559-6606.

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The Nebraska Hospital Association is the unified voice for Nebraska's hospitals and health systems. The association offers collaborative leadership, assisting its members to provide comprehensive care to their communities, improving the health status of those communities. For more information, please visit the NHA website at www.NebraskaHospitals.org.