

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Message from Oneida County Health Department:

Across the nation there is heightened awareness and increased preparedness activities related to Ebola. Oneida County Health Department (OCHD) is also ramping up its preparedness activities with local responders, such as health care providers, Emergency Medical Services, and Urgent Cares. The OCHD is maintaining regular communications with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding guidelines and protocols related to Ebola. The NYSDOH is providing guidance and information on infection control protocols and procedures to ensure the health and safety of all health care workers, patients, visitors and the general public.

On October 16th 2014, the NYSDOH issued a Commissioner's Order in the matter of the prevention and control of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Hospitals, treatment centers, and some clinics will display signs prominently located at all entrances, at reception, and at triage locations. The signs will be in at least eight languages asking all patients to provide their international travel history. At registration, all patients should anticipate a brief screening about their travel history within the last 21 days to Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone and any symptoms related to EVD.

On October 27, 2014, the NYSDOH issued a second Commissioner's Order with new directives for screening, monitoring and quarantining of individuals arriving at JFK Airport with a travel history within the last 21 days to Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone and remaining in New York City and/or traveling to another NYS county. Symptomatic individuals are immediately transferred to a healthcare facility. All others will be monitored or quarantined by the local health department within their jurisdiction for 21 days.

New York State has launched a new State information line to answer questions from New Yorkers on Ebola. The information line is free and trained staff will be answering the public's questions 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. The number is **1-800-861-2280**. This line is for public health information purposes, only not for people who need health care attention.

Other reliable resources for the community include the Center for Disease Control, www.cdc.gov, and New York State Department of Health, www.health.ny.gov.

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