



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CASS COUNTY INDIANA MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 2014: This Press Release contains information about the continued collaboration and planning efforts of the Cass County Health Department, community healthcare providers and emergency response agencies to prepare for Ebola; at risk individuals and the symptoms of Ebola; instructions for individuals who have symptoms suggestive of Ebola; prevention precautions for Ebola; and instructions for travelers.

*****For Public Information Release Only*****

The Cass County Health Department is closely monitoring the Ebola situation both here in the U.S. and abroad and continues to collaborate with community healthcare providers and emergency response agencies to ensure that Cass County is adequately prepared to identify, isolate, treat, and contain Ebola Virus Disease should any cases occur in Cass County. There are currently no confirmed cases of Ebola in Cass County or Indiana.

Individuals at risk for contracting Ebola Virus Disease are those who in the past 21 days have resided in or travelled to West Africa (especially Liberia, Guinea, or Sierra Leone) or who have had direct or close contact with a person with Ebola.

The symptoms of Ebola Virus Disease are fever of 100.4 F or greater, severe headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and unexplained bruising or bleeding.

Ebola can be spread only through direct or close contact with a person with Ebola while they are having symptoms. Ebola is transmitted in blood and body fluids. It is not spread through the air or by casual contact.

The Cass County Health Department advises that people with the above risk factors and symptoms go immediately to the nearest hospital emergency department for medical evaluation. They should not go to a doctor's office, urgent or immediate care center, or student health center. The emergency department at Logansport Memorial Hospital is equipped to evaluate and treat people with Ebola Virus Disease.

Prevention precautions for Ebola include proper hand washing with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, avoiding contact with bodily fluids of individuals who are sick, and avoiding handling items that have been contaminated with bodily fluids of an infected person (such as clothing, bedding, and medical equipment).

The Cass County Health Department agrees with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation that non-essential travel to West Africa be avoided. The Cass County Health Department also advises that individuals who have resided in or travelled to West Africa in the past 21 days and individuals who are planning travel to West Africa please contact the Nursing Division of the Cass County Health Department at 574-753-7760.

All requests from media regarding Ebola should be directed to one of the Cass County Health Department Public Information Officers: Bob Vernon or Mike Collins at (574) 753-7760.