

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 13, 2014

For more information, contact:

Lieske Giese
Eau Claire City-County Health
Department
715-839-4721
elizabeth.giese@co.eau-claire.wi.us

OR Jen Rombalski
Chippewa County Department of
Public Health
715-726-7900
jrombalski@co.chippewa.wi.us

CHIPPEWA VALLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS READY TO RESPOND TO EBOLA

Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls, WI – October 13, 2014 – The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recently announced that Wisconsin has plans in place to respond to Ebola. Chippewa and Eau Claire County residents should know that the Chippewa County Department of Public Health and Eau Claire City-County Health Department are ready to respond in the event Ebola were to be diagnosed locally. No cases of Ebola has yet been identified in Wisconsin.

Chippewa and Eau Claire are working with local hospitals, medical providers and first responders to coordinate how to respond if someone with Ebola presents in either county. “We have worked with hospitals and other partners to plan and prepare for the health needs of Eau Claire County residents for several years. We continue to use those strong partnerships as we all plan and coordinate a response in the event Ebola were found locally,” said Elizabeth (Lieske) Giese, Director of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

Ebola is spread through close contact with an infected person who is showing symptoms. It is not spread through the air, through food or water. People at highest risk of contracting Ebola are those who have recently been to West Africa or who have had direct contact with someone who has traveled to that area. Symptoms of Ebola include fever greater than 101.5°F, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, and unexplained bleeding or bruising.

No known case of Ebola has been identified in Wisconsin. However, if you suspect you may have Ebola, you should call the hospital or clinic before going in so staff can be properly prepared for your arrival. If you need to call 9-1-1 for immediate care, tell dispatchers if you have recently traveled to West Africa or had direct contact with someone who has.

To learn more about Ebola, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola

###