

## PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT READY TO RESPOND TO EBOLA

[Ellsworth, WI] – [October 17, 2014] – The Wisconsin Department of Health Services recently announced that Wisconsin has plans in place to respond to Ebola. Pierce County residents should know the Pierce County Health Department is ready to respond in the event Ebola were to be diagnosed locally. No case of Ebola has yet been identified in Wisconsin.

The Health Department is working with local hospitals and other medical providers to coordinate how to respond if someone with Ebola presents in Pierce County. “We have worked with hospitals and other partners to plan and prepare for the health needs of Pierce 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 Sue Galoff, Health Officer.

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 101.5o 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](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola)