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mainlinehealth.org

October 13, 2014

As you most likely have seen in recent news reports, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first case of Ebola diagnosed in the United States. The patient traveled to Dallas, Texas from Liberia. Main Line Health (MLH) remains in a continual state of readiness to treat and prevent the spread of all types of infectious diseases, including Ebola, to ensure the safety of our patients, employees, medical staff and community.

Under the guidance of our Infectious Disease experts, our hospitals, emergency rooms and outpatient offices across MLH have implemented a standard protocol to screen patients for symptoms and travel history and take any necessary precautions. If a patient has traveled to the United States from Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, or Nigeria within 21 days AND is symptomatic, the risk for Ebola viral infection exists. Symptoms include fever, myalgias, headache, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, at a minimum. Although Ebola is a serious disease, the infection prevention practices for preventing its spread are consistent with the practices we use regularly for other infectious diseases.

You should know that, unlike colds, Ebola does not spread easily. The disease is not contagious until symptoms begin, and it takes close contact with bodily fluids, such as saliva, blood, or feces, to spread. If a patient screens positive for travel history and symptoms, proper protocols will be followed and caregivers will wear maximal personal protective equipment. The appropriate county, state, and federal health departments will be alerted immediately.

Again, the safety of our patients, community, clinicians and staff is our number one priority. We thank all of our team members for their diligence and preparedness as we ensure MLH is well equipped to respond to any potential Ebola cases. For additional information on Ebola, please visit the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/about.html>. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Bridget Therriault, System Director of Communications at MLH 484.580.1025 or therriaultb@mlhs.org.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James Paradis
James Paradis
President, Paoli Hospital

Date Received: _____
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