



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2014

CONTACT: Beth Peyton (641) 684-2984

Ottumwa Regional Health Center Prepares for Ebola

(Ottumwa, IA) – Though the possibility of Ebola in SE Iowa is comparatively small at this time, officials at Ottumwa Regional Health Center says they will be ready should it happen.

“We are working very hard to make sure we have a safe environment for our employees, physicians, and patients. We have always had protective equipment, procedures and protocols in place to isolate and treat incidents of infectious disease,” says Ottumwa Regional CEO, Phil Noel. “But because of heightened concerns with the serious nature of Ebola, we will be conducting additional preparedness exercises to test our systems and processes related to diagnosing and safely screening potential Ebola patients. We will continue to have ongoing training and education as appropriate.”

Ottumwa Regional Health Center and their parent company, RegionalCare Hospital Partners are actively working with the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and with the American Hospital Association (AHA) to obtain and utilize the most up to date information and resources to manage any potential situation.

Mr. Noel added, “We are screening all incoming inpatients and outpatients if they are having any of the Ebola symptoms and have traveled to West Africa in the past 30 days. We will keep the public informed and encourage you to ask questions.”

According to the CDC you can’t get Ebola through the air, water or food. You can only get Ebola through blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola, touching contaminated objects, like needles; or touching infected animals or their meat.

For information and resources, please visit the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website at: www.cdc.gov

###