



# Northwest Medical Center

A Tradition of Community Healthcare

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**For Immediate Release:**

## Northwest Medical Center Takes Precautions to Protect Staff and Community from Ebola

**(Albany, MO) October 15, 2014** – The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the Ebola virus a major health threat as cases of the deadly disease increase and concern rises in the U.S. Because of the recent cases in the U.S., Northwest Medical Center (NMC) is taking precautions.

According to the CDC, Ebola is spread through direct contact, including human-to-human contact with body fluids such as blood, saliva, urine and others. Symptoms can show up anywhere between two to 21 days after exposure to the disease.

Northwest Medical Center has developed a plan of action in case the disease does spread to Missouri. The hospital is following CDC guidelines and protocols on what to do if a patient shows up in the ER or NMC primary care clinics with Ebola symptoms.

“We do have an internal process set up to manage patients with suspected Ebola. If a suspected case of Ebola were to be identified, the patient would be placed in isolation to control any outbreak and we would initiate the precautions established by the CDC,” said Lori Bishop, Inpatient Services Director and Infection Control Nurse at Northwest Medical Center. “We want to make sure we understand how it is transmitted and how we can prevent or stop the transmission. We are also making sure our staff is comfortable with the prescribed CDC protocols and management of patients with suspected or confirmed Ebola.”

Bishop says the entire staff at Northwest Medical Center is being proactive about the disease. Stations with information and supplies are set up at the entrance of the clinics, ER and main entrance of the hospital. Signs are posted that ask patients and visitors who are experiencing flu symptoms and have traveled outside of the country in the last month, to put on a mask and notify the registration clerk, for that setting.”

“These are preventative steps as we head into the flu and cold season, but they can also help prevent the spread of Ebola if an infected patient shows up at one of our locations,” says Bishop. “We are not waiting until Ebola is

### HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF FROM EBOLA According to the Center for Disease Control, to protect oneself from Ebola:

- Wash hands frequently or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid contact with blood and body fluids of any person, particularly someone who is sick.
- Do not handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person’s blood or body fluids.
- Do not touch bats and nonhuman primates or their blood and fluids and do not touch or eat raw meat prepared from these animals.
- Avoid hospitals in West Africa where Ebola patients are being treated. The U.S. Embassy or consulate is often able to provide advice on medical facilities.
- Seek medical care immediately if you develop fever (temperature of 101.5°F/ 38.6°C) and any of the other following symptoms: headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, or unexplained bruising or bleeding.
- Limit your contact with other people until and when you go to the doctor. Do not travel anywhere else besides a healthcare facility.



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here to take this seriously. We are making sure staff is trained with the proper equipment and protocol so everyone is comfortable with their role when taking care of patients.”

For the latest on the Ebola outbreak, along with signs and symptoms, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola> or call Northwest Medical Center at 660-726-3941. Northwest Medical Center is in compliance with the CDC guidance detailed here: <http://cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/SurveyCertificationGenInfo/Downloads/Survey-and-Cert-Letter-15-02.pdf>

**About-** Northwest Medical Center has provided high-quality health services to residents in Northwest Missouri since 1957. Along with five satellite clinics and a full-service home-health agency, Northwest Medical Center continues its tradition of community healthcare utilizing leading-edge diagnostic equipment and boasting one of the top emergency room facilities in the region.

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