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City of Wylie Taking Ebola Precautions

Wylie Fire Rescue Monitoring Situation, Will Provide Updates

Wylie, TX, October 3, 2014 – The City of Wylie is taking steps to respond to the Ebola virus situation for the safety of our citizens and first responders. Our mission is to educate the citizens of Wylie and establish precautions for the safest and most efficient response in our community. We are taking a proactive approach instead of waiting to be reactive. We have contacted churches in our area regarding returning missionary travel from infected areas and will continue to do so until contact is made with all churches in the city. At this time, there are no indications that we are at any heightened risk.

Citizens are encouraged to visit the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html or

The Texas Department of State Health Services website:

www.dshs.state.tx.us/preparedness/ebola-outbreak.aspx or

The City of Wylie website at www.wylitexas.gov.

We also encourage citizens to notify Wylie Fire Rescue if they have traveled to an affected region by emailing ebola@wylitexas.gov; questions may also be sent to this email. Wylie Emergency Management will be monitoring the situation locally as well as in conjunction with county, state, and federal officials.

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Facts about Ebola

Background

The current Ebola outbreak in West Africa has increased the possibility of patients with Ebola traveling from the affected countries to the United States. The likelihood of contracting Ebola is extremely low unless a person has direct unprotected contact with the body fluids (like urine, saliva, feces, vomit, sweat, and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola or direct handling of bats or nonhuman primates from areas with Ebola outbreaks. Ebola is an often-fatal disease, and care is needed when coming in direct contact with a recent traveler from a country with an Ebola outbreak and has symptoms of Ebola.

The incubation period for Ebola, from exposure to when signs or symptoms appear, ranges from two to 21 days (most commonly eight to 10 days). Any Ebola patient with signs or symptoms should be considered infectious. Ebola patients without symptoms are not contagious. The prevention of Ebola includes actions to avoid exposure to blood or body fluids of infected patients through contact with skin, mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, or mouth, or injuries with contaminated needles or other sharp objects.

Recovery from Ebola depends on the patient's immune response. People who recover from Ebola infection develop antibodies that last for at least 10 years.

Symptoms

The incubation period for Ebola Virus Disease (from exposure to when signs or symptoms appear, ranges from **two to 21 days** (most commonly eight to 10 days).

Early symptoms include **sudden fever, chills** and **muscle aches**.

Around the fifth day, a skin rash can occur. **Nausea, vomiting, chest pain, sore throat, abdominal pain and diarrhea** may follow.

Symptoms become increasingly severe and may include **jaundice (yellow skin), severe weight loss, mental confusion, bleeding inside or outside the body, shock, multi-organ failure and death**. The fatality rate can vary from 40 to 90 percent.

The CDC recommends testing for all persons with onset of fever within 21 days of having a high-risk exposure, which can include any of the following:

Percutaneous (through the skin) or mucous membrane exposure, or direct skin contact with body fluids of a person with a confirmed or suspected case of EVD without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE);

Laboratory processing of body fluids of suspected or confirmed EVD cases without appropriate PPE or standard biosafety precautions; or

Participation in funeral rites or other direct exposure to human remains in the geographic area where the outbreak is occurring without appropriate PPE.

Transmission

This is the largest outbreak of EVD ever documented and the first recorded in West Africa. Although the disease is rare, it can spread from **person to person**, especially among health care staff and other people who have **close contact** with an infected person. EVD is spread through **direct contact with blood or body fluids** such as, but not limited to, the sweat, semen, breast milk, saliva, feces or urine of an infected person or animal, or through contact with objects that have been contaminated by these body fluids (e.g., syringes) of an infected person.

This is not transmitted through the air or water.

Ebola is not transmitted through mosquitoes.

Prevention

The prevention of EVD infection includes measures to avoid contact with blood and body fluids of infected individuals.

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About Wylie -- Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 44,000) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the State of Texas with a 184% increase since 2000.