



VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY

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Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ventura County Medical Center and Health Care Agency clinics put Ebola response plan in place

(VENTURA, Calif.) – Ventura County Health Care Agency Director Barry Fisher announced today that as of Tuesday, October 21st, the entrance to Ventura County Medical Center, (VCMC) at 3291 Loma Vista, has been closed to the public indefinitely, and all traffic into the hospital directed down Hillmont Avenue to the parking structure and the main entrance to the hospital. The second entrance into the hospital will be the emergency room. This is in an effort to protect the health of patients, visitors and employees.

Additionally, beginning Tuesday, October 21st, all visitors to VCMC, Santa Paula Hospital and Health Care Agency clinics, which include all public health, behavioral health, ambulatory care and specialty clinics, will go through a short screening process prior to entrance into the buildings to determine if they might be a risk for Ebola or other infectious diseases. This screening involves a series of questions, such as whether the person has had fever, headache, weakness, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea or abdominal pain; if they've traveled to West Africa or had contact with anyone who has in the past 21 days. The short screening will be given to all gaining access to buildings including patients, visitors, vendors and staff.

As part of the Health Care Agency's preparedness plan, an Ebola response drill was held Thursday, October 16th, and included members of the hospital staff, Ventura County Public Health, Emergency Medical Services Agency, and the Emergency Preparedness Office.

The training included the use of PPE and concepts for consideration in response to Ebola. The prescheduled training was well received by staff, who appreciated the experience, although the likelihood of an Ebola patient in Ventura County or our hospitals and clinics remains a very low risk.



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Ventura County Public Health and the Health Care Agency place the health and safety of its patients and employees as a main priority, and are following CDC guidelines:

Currently a person under investigation for EVD is defined as illness in a person who has both consistent symptoms and risk factors as follows: 1) Clinical criteria, which includes fever of 38.0 degrees Celsius or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, and additional symptoms such as severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or unexplained hemorrhage; AND 2) Epidemiologic risk factors within the past 3 weeks before the onset of symptoms, such as contact with blood or other body fluids of a patient known to have or suspected to have EVD; residence in—or travel to—an area where EVD transmission is active; participation in funeral and burial rituals, or direct handling of bats, rodents, or primates from disease-endemic areas.

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