



October 21, 2014

## JOINT STATEMENT – Ebola Preparedness In Missouri

Emergency preparedness is a long-term commitment. Since 2002, Missouri hospitals, health care providers and our state partners have been planning, equipping and training for a variety of emergencies. We have deliberately built our response plans with an all-hazards approach to ensure a flexible response to a range of threats. Today, that threat is Ebola.

Ebola requires vigilant screening and treatment practices. Though we have not previously encountered Ebola in our state, it is similar to other infectious disease threats that health care providers have successfully managed in the past decade. Each required nurses, physicians and allied health professionals to be prepared to use equipment and rely on prior training to practice safe and appropriate infection control protocols.

Missouri's hospitals, and their nursing and physician partners, are focused on providing safe, quality patient care in an environment that protects both patients and caregivers. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Hospital Association, Missouri Nurses Association and Missouri State Medical Association are following the most current Ebola preparedness guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. As this guidance is revised, we are working with our collective constituents to incorporate the updates into plans and protocols and will make adjustments to best protect patients and health care providers.

This dynamic environment calls for flexibility on the part of hospitals, physicians and nurses. However, the public health and provider communities share the same goals in the face of any Ebola case: ensuring patients receive quality care at the right time and the right place, and that all staff members are safe while providing that care.

The CDC will remain the nation's authority on Ebola. Providers and the public can access the most up-to-date information about Ebola on the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>.

In Missouri, the lines of communication remain open between hospitals, nurses, physicians and our state's public health authorities. In partnership, we will continue to work to ensure the latest information and resources are available.

Gail Vasterling  
Director  
Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Herb B. Kuhn  
President and CEO  
Missouri Hospital Association

Rebecca McClanahan  
President  
Missouri Nurses Association

Thomas L. Holloway  
Executive Vice President  
Missouri State Medical Association

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