

Ebola Alert

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protecting our healthcare providers. We need to continue to be flexible as we receive new guidance. In the end, hospitals and nurses have the same goals in the face of any Ebola case: To ensure patients are appropriately cared for at the right time and the right place and that all hospital and clinical staff are safe in providing that care.”

Although the cases that occurred in Dallas were unexpected, there was a gap between the levels of protection offered to doctors than what was offered to nurses. National Nurses United recited examples of how Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas mishandled the original Ebola patient’s care, and how later they placed nurses in danger without offering them proper training or personal protective equipment.

Deborah Burger, co-president of the Oregon Nurses Association, brought up the danger that other patients might face if they were cared for by a nurse who was exposed to the disease themselves because of inadequate protocols.

“We want to make sure this does not happen ever again,” Burger said.

Oregon has so far dealt with two Ebola scares: a child who was ill with a stomach bug on a flight back from Lagos, Nigeria, and a woman in Salem who

showed symptoms of the disease after recently travelling. Both cases proved false for Ebola, but brought statewide attention to the possibility of the disease arriving in Oregon, and brought forth sincere dialogue from leaders and health experts.

Dr. Paul Cieslak, Oregon’s medical director for acute and communicable disease prevention, made several statements focusing on how the disease is spread – through direct contact with infected bodily fluids, especially blood. Ebola, he insisted,

“is not spread by interacting with someone on a bus or somebody you see in a grocery store.”

Gov. John Kitzhaber has called for the state to accelerate Ebola preparations to ensure public safety. Other voices, like that of Dr. Paul Lewis, the Tri-County Health Officer for the Portland area, are concerned with the fear the disease has raised in local communities.

“What we’ve learned...is that we’re probably far more likely to deal with suspected cases than real cases,” Lewis said.

Many health officials have reminded people to get a flu shot this year to avoid more false alarms, and the Centers for Disease Control also encourages everyone to recognize the flu as a more serious and pressing risk to the population than Ebola this fall.

Although Ebola is a serious and deadly disease, the flu will be affecting and ultimately taking the lives of many more Americans this year, and is expected to be much quicker to spread.

To locate a sliding scale or

low-income flu vaccine in your area, visit public.health.oregon.gov. Oregon has resources available to vulnerable populations, including the elderly, pregnant and nursing women, babies, and people with immunity deficiencies.

Free flu shots will also be available at the African American Health Coalition’s Wellness Village, happening on Friday at the Ambridge Event Center. For more information, visit aahc-portland.org.



Police Reform Battle

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forms from the settlement are implemented properly and thoroughly, they should result in de-escalation during police contacts with all Portlanders, according to people on all sides of the issue.

The coalition calls upon the members of City Council to reject the proposal, being put forth by Mayor Hales and Commissioner Amanda Fritz in the form of a Council Resolution authorizing the City Attorney to appeal the judgment, and further calls upon the community to attend the City Council hearing at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22 to oppose the resolution.

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