

## Cole County Health Department Event Update 10/17/14

This morning, St. Mary's Health Center in Jefferson City received a call from individual claiming to have an ill person in their household with recent travel to West Africa and ebola like symptoms. St. Mary's Health Center notified the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services who notified the Cole County Health Department. As a result of this call, Cole County and Jefferson City activated their incident plan and pulled response partners together. Local law enforcement was given the available information and was able to determine that the claim was false. There is no person in Cole County that meets the description given by the caller. Local law enforcement will be in further contact with the person who made the false claim and will deal with them appropriately.

We are all extremely relieved that this was a false claim; however, we realize that we need to be prepared in the event that we have a real incident involving an infectious disease, like ebola. This incident gave responders in Cole County and Jefferson City an opportunity to exercise our incident plan and prepare for a response. All aspects of a potential response were discussed; from transporting an ill person and care of the patient, contact tracing and decontamination of the affected household and vehicle. We will take what we learned today and continue to improve our plan and enhance our response.

I would like to thank everyone who came together today during this incident; including representatives from the Cole County Commission; City and County law enforcement, City fire department; County Emergency Medical Services; the County Emergency Management Director; Cole County Hazmat, the Cole County Health Department; St. Mary's Health Center and Capital Region Medical Center; Lincoln University; the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Highway Patrol.

All of the involved agencies are committed to responding to incidents and mitigating the risk to Cole County residents and visitors.