**STATEWIDE NEWS RELEASE**

**Contact:** Beth Fisher or Barbara Fox

(502) 564-6786

**XXXX Announces First Ebola Case Reported by Public Health**

(XXXX, KY – Month, day, 20XX) The Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) announced a confirmed case of Ebola after receiving positive test results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

“While we are concerned about the reported case of Ebola in Kentucky, I want to assure Kentuckians that health officials here are doing everything possible to prevent the disease from spreading, said (NAME, TITLE, ORGANIZATION). “Further, I call on all Kentuckians to do their part by being aware of the symptoms of this potentially deadly disease and practicing good hygiene, including washing your hands frequently and staying away from any sick person.”

Reports of an Ebola case understandably raise concerns for Kentuckians. However, during the large scale 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa and with threats of Ebola stateside Kentucky coordinated with the CDC and Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) to monitor travelers from Ebola-affected countries, identified Ebola assessment hospitals, developed a state response plan, and collaborated with other states in our region and developed a comprehensive regional response plan to prepare for this time.

The confirmed case involves a person with recent travel to one of the African countries where the Ebola virus is known to exist. The patient is currently isolated and is of no threat to the public. Specimen samples have been confirmed by CDC for Ebola. Public health officials are actively investigating the circumstances of the case to determine what level of monitoring is necessary for each individual case contact.

Per CDC guidelines, we do know how to stop Ebola’s further spread: thorough case finding, isolation of ill people, contacting people exposed to the ill person, close monitoring of contacts, and further isolation of contacts if they develop symptoms. The U.S. public health and medical systems have had prior experience with sporadic cases of diseases such as Ebola. In

the past decade, the United States had 5 imported cases of viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) diseases similar to Ebola (1 Marburg, 4 Lassa). None resulted in any transmission in the United States.

To anticipate and prepare for a case of Ebola in Kentucky DPH, working with CDC, has been:

. Enhancing surveillance and laboratory testing capacity in states to detect cases

. Developing guidance and tools for health departments to conduct public health investigations

. Providing recommendations for healthcare infection control and other measures to prevent disease spread

. Providing guidance for flight crews, Emergency Medical Services units at airports and Customs and Border protection officers about reporting ill travelers to CDC

. Disseminating up-to-date information to the general public, international travelers, and public health partners.

Ebola virus spreads through contact with blood and other body fluids of someone who is sick with, or has died from Ebola. Early symptoms include fever, headache, weakness, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting and abdominal pain, and appear from 2 to 21 days after exposure.

In addition to washing hands frequently, Kentucky health officials also urge Kentuckians to take the following actions to help the spread of Ebola:

. Avoid contact with blood and other body fluids including but not limited to breast milk, urine, sweat, vomit, or semen of a person infected with Ebola

. Avoid objects contaminated by the virus including needles, clothes and linens

. Notify health officials if you’ve had contact with a person infected by Ebola.

. Avoid contact with semen from a man who has had Ebola until you know Ebola is gone from his semen

. Stay away from any ill person

“Ebola is a dangerous disease and our hearts go out to the patient suffering from this terrible illness. We also want all Kentuckians to know we are confident in our infection control system and are actively engaged in the necessary steps to swiftly respond and prevent the spread of this illness”, said (NAME, TITLE, ORGANIZATION). “While Ebola has caused large-scale outbreaks in other parts of the world, the public health infrastructure and health care system in Kentucky – and across the United States – is vastly different and we are much better prepared to respond and contain this type of illness. We are fully prepared to act and help protect our fellow Kentuckians from the spread of this deadly disease.”

“While having a case of Ebola in Kentucky is cause for concern and we understand more cases may develop, we have the knowledge and resources to prevent widespread transmission in Kentucky. Please know that we have already responded and we will continue to work to take measures to avoid further transmission of Ebola in Kentucky. Public health officials continue to identify and reach out to those who may have had contact with the case in order to prevent the spread of Ebola. If anyone feels they have been exposed to Ebola please isolate yourself from all humans and animals and call your healthcare provider or call XXX-XXXX so we may determine your risk of exposure and take necessary precautions to avoid the spread of Ebola. I call on all Kentuckians to do his or her part by taking simple precautions (such as good hand washing, avoiding contact with body fluids, and staying away from sick persons) to avoid becoming infected wit Ebola.”

For more information on Ebola, visit [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola). Individuals can get updates on this outbreak from the Kentucky Department for Public Health by visiting [www.healthalertsky.gov](http://www.healthalertsky.gov), calling X-XXX-XXX-XXXX or following KYHealthAlerts on Twitter.