



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CHI St. Joseph's Health is prepared for Ebola**

**PARK RAPIDS, MN (NOV. 24, 2014)** – Although the risk of Ebola in our area is extremely low, leaders at CHI St. Joseph's Health want the public to know that plans are in place to manage care should the need arise.

"We are prepared, trained and equipped to detect, isolate, and transport patients for treatment to one of the four designated Minnesota hospitals," says Wendy Gillicksrud, CHI St. Joseph's Health Infection Prevention Coordinator.

"Education, preparation and readiness are key," she adds. "We have equipped and trained key staff so that in the unlikely event of a case in our area, we can manage care for the suspected patient while keeping everyone safe from exposure."

All patients are screened at registration regarding recent travel history. Those with a travel history and symptoms would be placed immediately in isolation, stabilized and prepared for transport to one of four designated Minnesota hospitals for further testing and treatment. The hospitals include:

- University of Minnesota Medical Center, West Bank Campus, Minneapolis
- Mayo Clinic Hospital, Rochester, St. Mary's Campus
- Allina Health's Unity Hospital, Fridley
- Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus

CHI St. Joseph's Health Infection Prevention, Emergency Management and Community Health teams are following the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for management of the Ebola virus

and monitoring and adapting to protocols and equipment needs as recommendations continue to evolve.

For additional information, please contact Wendy Gullicksrud.

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#### **About CHI St. Joseph's Health**

*CHI St. Joseph's Health is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving communities in Hubbard, Becker, Cass and Wadena Counties since 1946. In recent years, CHI St. Joseph's Health's award-winning teams took several national honors including: The Joint Commission Top Performer on Key Quality Measures in surgery; Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, HealthStrong; WomenCertified's America's Best Hospitals Women's Choice Award in obstetrics; and the Studer Group Fire Starter Healthcare Organization of the Month among other national and state recognitions.*

#### **About CHI**

*Catholic Health Initiatives, one of the nation's largest health systems, was formed in 1996 to strengthen the Catholic health ministry for the future. With deep roots in the tradition of expressing Christ's love by caring for those in need, Catholic Health Initiatives serves more than four million people each year through acute care hospitals; long-term care, assisted and residential-living facilities; community-based health services; home care; research and development; and reference laboratory services.*

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