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GREEN COUNTY OFFICIALS, MONROE CLINIC WORKING TOGETHER ON EBOLA PLANNING

Monroe— Green County Health Department, Green County Sheriff’s Department and Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Green County Coroner and Monroe Clinic, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), are preparing in the event the Ebola virus is diagnosed in Green County.

“At this time, there are no reported cases of Ebola in Wisconsin, and the risk of contracting it remains extremely low,” said RoAnn Warden, Green County Health Officer. “Preparing and collaborating on the federal, state, and local level will ensure that the public and health care providers receive prompt public health information.”

“People are naturally concerned about the Ebola virus, especially with the cases recently diagnosed in the United States,” said RoAnn Warden. “While we work together to prepare, it’s also important to reassure the public that Ebola can only be transmitted through contact with the body fluids of people who are sick with the virus, or who have died from it. Ebola cannot be transmitted through the air.”

Health care workers and first responders are keenly aware that they must be especially vigilant with following rigorous safety practices in the event they are ever called on to assist, or care for, an Ebola patient.

Monroe Clinic is following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and planning recommendations. According to their Chief Medical Officer, Mark Thompson, MD, they continue to watch for any updates and recommendations from CDC to manage an outbreak.

“Our partnership at the local health department level is also key in ensuring preparedness,” said Dr. Thompson. “We continue to plan and practice techniques in the event we encounter a patient at risk.”

“We want to stress that there are no reported cases of Ebola in Wisconsin, and the risk of contracting it remains extremely low in Wisconsin,” said Karen McKeown, State Health Officer. “DHS remains vigilant in its monitoring of the Ebola virus, and will continue to provide our partners, and the public, with the most current information and guidance concerning this disease.”

For more information about the Ebola virus and Wisconsin’s preparedness efforts, visit:

<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/diseasepages/ebola.htm>

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