



**A Message for the Workplace Regarding Ebola  
10/17/2014**

Canton, Ohio. At this time based on the information collected by the public health departments in Stark County, there is no known threat to the public's health. Public health is not advocating for the closure of schools, the cancellation of events, or the exclusion of employees from work.

Canton City Health Department has released a list of the top things employers need to know about Ebola:

- 1. Your employee is not at risk while working in Stark County.** A risk for Ebola only comes when you come into close contact with a person suffering from Ebola. Public Health works to identify those that have this close contact and will notify you if you have any employee that would be affected.
- 2. Being near someone who is sick with Ebola doesn't mean you'll get infected.** The disease isn't contagious like the flu or common cold. You have to be in contact with a patient's body fluids or blood, and you have to have a break in your skin or have the fluids touch your eyes, mouth or nose.
- 3. Ebola does not live long on surfaces or outside someone's body.** Soaps, detergents and hand sanitizers are effective at killing the virus. Keeping your area clean and washing your hands will help prevent infections.
- 4. Your employees are really only at risk if you have traveled to West Africa, where Ebola is currently spreading.** The health department is able to determine the risk of infection through an interview process with someone who has recently returned from one of these areas.
- 5. There are currently no known cases of Ebola in Stark County or Ohio.**

If you are considering excluding an employee from the workplace due to concerns over Ebola disease, please know that there is currently no evidence to take such action. We urge you to contact your local health department if you have questions before taking any action.

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Canton City Health Department  
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Massillon City Health Department  
330/830/1710

Stark County Health Department  
330-493-9904

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