



CITY OF CORSICANA, TEXAS

October 17, 2014

I would like all citizens to know that the recent Ebola threat is being taken very seriously by local emergency response personnel. A round table meeting was held today at Navarro Regional Hospital to discuss the community preparedness and clarify individual roles in the event of a confirmed case. Please know that the Local Health authority, Dr. Kent Rogers, Emily Carroll, representing the local Health Department, several Navarro Regional Hospital personnel, City of Corsicana Police Chief and Fire Chief and Navarro College representatives were present. County and CISD officials, while not present, will be briefed on the meeting. The topics discussed were each entity's plan and procedures for addressing high risk patients.

Discussion began with Randy Bratton describing how dispatchers at the Police Department are briefed on what questions to ask and how to advise City of Corsicana EMS paramedics before they arrive at the scene. Fire Chief Donald McMullan discussed the training given each paramedic, the three levels of personal protective equipment available to the paramedics and preparation of a specially equipped ambulance to be reserved for transportation of patients if required. He also discussed the Emergency Operations Center and how it would be used by Eric Meyers, the Navarro County Emergency Management Coordinator, in the event of a confirmed case. Michael Stewart and other Navarro Regional Hospital representatives outlined what questions would be asked to emergency room patients that exhibit the symptoms and how the patients would be isolated in a special room that has a separate ventilation system from the hospital. This exceeds CDC recommendations for isolation and will provide a high degree of protection for the staff and other patients. In addition, the levels of personal protective equipment being provided to Emergency Room personnel and notification procedures once a case is confirmed were discussed. Navarro College discussed plans to keep the student population safe. International students will not be allowed to return to campus if they leave over the holidays for travel abroad. In addition, the College will not accept any additional international students currently residing in African countries.

As a result of this meeting, there will be a drill conducted Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 9:00 am. The purpose of the drill is to insure the lines of communication and chain of command are clear and correct. I have a high degree of confidence that the community is prepared and trained for an event of this nature. This drill will confirm the high level of preparedness.

There are a number of tools that will be used by officials to advise citizens of critical information. This includes the News from the Mayor and the reverse 911 notification system called Everbridge. If you have not signed up for both of these, News from the Mayor sign up is on the City of Corsicana website, www.cityofcorsicana.com, under the "Notify Me" tab. Sign up for Everbridge notification on the Navarro County Emergency Management website at www.navarrocountyoem.org. Please share this information with friends and neighbors.

Regards,

Chuck McClanahan
Mayor