

# NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

## **Halifax Regional Proactive in Infection Prevention Planning**

**ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC (October 16, 2014)**—Halifax Regional continues to examine and review preparedness plans for infection prevention. Preparation is being led by Chief Nursing Officer, Karen Daniels, RN, MSN, NEA-BC, who is working with Infection Prevention experts, nurses, clinical staff, and departmental teams to screen for and properly assess, contain, and care for any patient who may seek care at the Medical Center.

No Ebola patients have been treated at the hospital nor have any patients failed the screening process to evaluate potential patients who may be at risk.

“Halifax Regional remains prepared to treat all types of emergencies and provide necessary care for patients in our region, said William Mahone, President, Halifax Regional.”

Halifax Regional has always been prepared to perform a basic medical screening of all patients seeking care, including those who may have an infectious disease. This screening includes an in depth travel history, medical history, and detection of any symptoms of illness. The Medical Center is also prepared to treat isolation patients, but national planning indicates that any confirmed Ebola patient would be transferred to a larger tertiary medical center.

A safe work environment for our patients and staff has always been a top priority. Clinical staff are trained in basic infection prevention measures as part of their

hospital orientation and continuing education, but we are implementing additional measures to re-educate front line staff and health care providers of our protocol and procedures for infection prevention.

Halifax Regional has access to resources and expert guidance from Novant Health. We will continue to participate in local, state, and national planning efforts to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases.

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**About Halifax Regional**

*Halifax Regional Medical Center is licensed for 204 beds, including psychiatric and nursery. A non-profit organization, Halifax Regional is fully accredited by the Joint Commission. For more information, visit [www.halifaxregional.org](http://www.halifaxregional.org).*