



For immediate release: July 5, 2016

Contact: Rebecca Luczycki, (907) 269-3495, cell (907) 351-7269 rebecca.luczycki@alaska.gov

DHSS names first Alaska hospital to demonstrate ability to receive Ebola patient *State to present Providence with certification as Ebola Assessment Hospital on July 5*

ANCHORAGE – Providence Alaska Medical Center became the first Ebola Assessment Hospital in the state by demonstrating it can receive and isolate a suspected case of Ebola and take care of the patient for up to 96 hours. A formal presentation of the certification will take place at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 5, at Providence.

Any patient investigated for Ebola in Alaska will be transferred to Providence through the authority of the Department of Health and Social Services, Section of Emergency Programs. DHSS certified the hospital in April.

“This is great news for the state and a testament to the commitment Providence has made to Alaskans,” said Dr. Jay Butler, the Chief Medical Officer and Director of Public Health for DHSS. “Although the risk of Ebola in Alaska is extremely low, it is critical that we have health care facilities that can identify and care for patients suspected of being exposed to Ebola or other important infectious diseases.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention set the criteria for Ebola Assessment Hospitals, <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/preparing/hospitals.html>, and requires facilities to show that they have certain plans and resources in place, including:

- A private room with in-room dedicated bathroom, patient care equipment and sufficient space to don and doff personal protective equipment
- An inter-facility and intra-facility ground and air transport plan
- An ability to conduct bedside testing and collect and transport blood samples to the Alaska State Public Health Laboratory for Ebola testing
- A staffing plan that support 96 consecutive hours of clinical care
- A training plan on donning and doffing personal protective equipment, proper waste management, infection control practices and specimen transport
- A program in place to clean and disinfect patient care areas and equipment
