



Including health departments in Bryan, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, and McIntosh counties.

### **What You Need to Know about Ebola**

Ebola is a rare and deadly disease. There is an outbreak of Ebola in certain countries in West Africa and three people in the United States (as of October 21, 2014) have been diagnosed with the virus. It is important to understand that if you haven't traveled to the countries in West Africa where the Ebola outbreak is taking place and you haven't had direct contact with an Ebola patient, your chances of getting Ebola are really nonexistent. It is also important to understand that hospitals in our area and around the state, along with other healthcare agencies and community partners, are making sure that plans are in place so that we will be ready to safely care for a patient with Ebola and protect our community members should the need arise.

### **Ebola Quick Facts**

- Ebola is spread through direct contact (through broken skin or through your eyes, nose, or mouth) with blood and body fluids (like urine, feces, saliva, vomit, sweat, and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola and objects (like needles) that have been contaminated with the blood or body fluids of a person sick with Ebola.
- Ebola is **not** spread through the air, water, or food.
- A person who has Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear (fever, severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, or unexplained bleeding or bruising) which is usually between 2 and 21 days after they've gotten the virus.
- There is no FDA-approved vaccine available for Ebola.
- The best way to protect yourself from getting or spreading any virus is to wash hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its partners are taking precautions to prevent the further spread of Ebola within the United States.