NEWS RELEASE

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Council briefed on Ebola

Readiness procedures outlined in staff presentation

Summary

At its open meeting held Monday October 27, Council received an update from staff concerning the City's readiness and capacity to address concerns associated with Ebola. While the chances of contracting the virus in Nanaimo remains extremely low, emergency management staff have reviewed procedures overseeing the required response should the virus present itself in the community.

Strategic Link: Taking Responsibility to be an excellent municipal government.

Key Points

- Island Health and the BC Ambulance Service are the lead agencies for Ebola.
- The City has been involved in meetings over the last several weeks to discuss procedures and protocols related to Ebola. Representatives involved include the BC Ambulance Service, Island Health, Fire, Police, Nanaimo Regional General Hospital and City of Nanaimo Emergency Management staff.
- There are five designated hospitals identified in British Columbia for treatment of confirmed or suspected cases of Ebola. The closest facility to Nanaimo is located in Victoria.

Quotes

"While the risk of Ebola in our community remains extremely low, the City of Nanaimo has been working with Island Health and its partner agencies to identify the best means possible to control the virus through established procedures, inter-agency collaboration and effective communication."

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