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 Richmond, VA 74° F

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014



McAuliffe mobilizes command group to prepare for Ebola

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Posted: Friday, October 17, 2014 7:54 pm

By **ANDREW CAIN** Richmond Times-Dispatch

Gov. Terry McAuliffe said Friday that Virginia is mobilizing a statewide unified command group in order to strengthen preparedness to deal with any cases of the Ebola virus.

The group would coordinate resources and personnel. It will be made up of officials from the governor's office, Department of Health, Department of Emergency Management, state police, Department of Social Services, Department of Transportation, Virginia National Guard, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Education, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, among others.

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"Ebola prevention is based on principles and approaches that we use every day," said Dr. Marissa J. Levine, the state health commissioner.

"However, there are unique aspects of Ebola that require us to make sure our plans and processes are up to date for this new concern."

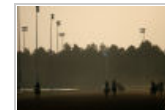
Also Friday:

- U.S. Sens. Timothy M. Kaine and Mark R. Warner, both Democrats, wrote to Dr. Bill Hazel, Virginia's secretary of health and human resources, and to Sean Connaughton, president and CEO of the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, asking what is being done to ensure Virginia hospitals and health professionals have the supplies, training and information they need to identify and treat patients who present Ebola symptoms.

FEATURED

Va. department to relocate headquarters to Henrico

The department expects to move from the 4000 block of West Broad Street in Richmond's West End to its new headquarters location by spring.



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- The VHHA board of directors met with Levine at the board's meeting in Richmond. The VHHA said they discussed "protocols and other preparations underway at the state level and in Virginia's hospitals and health systems, specifically regarding personal protective equipment, transportation and reporting of potential cases."
- Rep. Robert J. Wittman, R-1st, joined a number of Virginia Republicans in calling on President Barack Obama to implement restrictions on travel to the United States from nations impacted by Ebola.
- Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-4th, called for Congress to reconvene in order to address containment of Ebola.

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