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FOR IMMEDIATE RELASE: October 30, 2014

Montco Monitoring First Travelers from West Africa

Norristown, Pa (October 30, 2014) – Montgomery County health officials today announced they are monitoring their first travelers from a West African country.

The two Montgomery County residents are family members and arrived in the United States from Liberia on October 28. The individuals are asymptomatic, have been contacted by Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) staff, are well-versed on monitoring procedures, and are cooperating with health officials. Both are considered to be in the "low risk" category.

The individuals will be monitored daily, including weekends, by MCHD staff until the end of the 21-day incubation period on November 17.

MCHD staff has been working closely with the Montgomery County Commissioners, the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety (MCDPS), county hospitals, health care providers, and EMS personnel over the past several weeks to ensure that the county is ready for any contingency.

MCHD has been communicating and sharing Ebola preparedness guidance in a number of ways recognizing that redundancy will be very important right now to ensure all of our public health partners have the guidance they need to successfully manage a suspected case of Ebola.

First, MCHD has many healthcare and public health representatives on its email distribution lists who receive all of the CDC, PADOH, and MCHD health advisories, alerts, and guidance materials. They will be responsible for ensuring the guidance is being filtered down to persons who serve the people who live and work in Montgomery County.

Second, MCHD has been posting all of the latest information regarding Ebola in real time in the HIMS (Healthcare Incident Management System), which serves Public Safety personnel (Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement) as well as Hospital System representatives, Township Emergency Management Coordinators, and Municipality Leadership.

Third, MCHD is posting Ebola information on the MCHD web (www.health.montcopa.org) and, as needed, can utilize social media options (Facebook and Twitter) if there are messages for the general public. The website includes links to CDC for more information.

Fourth, MCHD has been conducting weekly conference calls with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety to discuss updates in West Africa and in the U.S. They have discussed a number of preparedness issues and intend to continue these calls and increase the frequency as needed.

Also, MCHD, in coordination with MCDPS, is working to ensure that first responders and healthcare personnel are properly trained in donning and taking off personal protective equipment (PPE).