



42121 US Hwy 70  
PO Drawer 868  
Portales, NM 88130  
575.359.1800  
[www.MyRGH.org](http://www.MyRGH.org)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Larry Leaming/Anne Carey/John Bridges  
575.359.1800

### **Roosevelt General Hospital Takes Proactive Steps**

Portales, NM – Roosevelt General Hospital will now be pre-screening for Ebola outside of its facility. Patients and RGH visitors arriving at the hospital and clinic will be asked a series of questions regarding symptoms of Ebola disease. The screening questionnaire that has been used at the registration desks will continue to be the method for screening outside the building. This process will be done in order to further promote the safety of patients and RGH visitors, as well as staff.

“These measures are being taken in the interest of protecting the citizens of Roosevelt County. Safety for our facility relies on being proactive rather than reactive,” stated Larry Leaming, CEO. “We have been coordinating with the Roosevelt County Sheriff’s Office and are confident that the system we are implementing will put RGH in the forefront of safety against infectious diseases.”

Beginning Thursday, 10/23/2014, the back (cell tower) road to the hospital will be closed, allowing all the flow of traffic to come from US Highway 70. A checkpoint will be put in the front parking lot near the street entrance which will screen each incoming cars using the Ebola questionnaire provided. In the event of a positive Ebola pre-screening, the suspected patient will be transferred to the quarantined section of the hospital where they will be given care under CDC protocol guidelines.

“Screening in the parking lot will allow us to control the traffic that enters the hospital. By taking these precautions we are able to ensure the safety of the facility, our patients and the staff”, said Anne Carey, Chief Nursing Operator.

The RGH Health Fair will proceed as planned.

“The Health Fair will allow us to demonstrate our readiness in the event of an outbreak. With the high volume of traffic seen during past health fairs, we are excited for the opportunity to educate the community as well as display our staff’s ability to handle situations requiring immediate action” stated John Bridges, Safety Officer.

There will be 4-5 volunteers to pre-screen cars as they enter the parking lot the morning of the health fair.

For more information, please call 575.359.1800 or visit [www.myrg.org](http://www.myrg.org).

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