FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM LOUISIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION REGARDING HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS FOR EBOLA
October 16, 2014

Statement from LHA President & CEO Paul A. Salles
Baton Rouge – In Louisiana, hospitals have worked together to establish a collaborative network to plan for, prepare for and respond to emergency situations of all kinds.

Today, hospitals are called upon to be prepared to respond to the Ebola outbreak that has now affected two nurses in Dallas, TX. Our thoughts are with these nurses and all healthcare providers who are working diligently to combat this disease.

Safety is our hospitals’ top priority for both patients and healthcare workers. Facilities have established plans and procedures to safely care for patients with infectious diseases.

The LHA and hospitals across Louisiana are taking direction from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while it develops and refines the most effective prevention and care protocols available. Additionally, we are coordinating with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) within our state.

Because this is a rapidly changing public health situation, hospitals are being encouraged to conduct drills and trainings with key staff and healthcare providers to systematically implement the latest infection control procedures. In addition, regular conference calls are being hosted with hospitals and other preparedness stakeholders to ensure situational awareness and engagement.

The LHA and our hospitals are committed to working with the CDC and DHH to ensure that we are ready to provide effective care and treatment should a case of Ebola develop in the state of Louisiana.

About the Louisiana Hospital Association
Established in 1926, the Louisiana Hospital Association is a non-profit organization representing hospitals and healthcare provider groups across the state. The mission of the LHA is to support its members through advocacy, education and services. For more information, visit the LHA website at www.lhaonline.org, or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LAHospitals or on Twitter @LAHospitals.

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