Nambour Hospital to conduct emergency preparedness training exercise

Nambour Hospital will conduct two internal simulation-based training exercises about emergency preparedness on Thursday 27 and Wednesday 3 December 2014.

The hospital’s emergency department will host the exercises to test the whole-of-hospital response to a suspected case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Executive Director Medical Services Dr Piotr Swierkowski said it was important that hospital workers knew how to safely deal with any communicable disease.

“We routinely have emergency drills but this exercise will focus on what we would do in the unlikely event a member of the public presented with EVD symptoms and had recently returned from an Ebola-affected area,” Dr Swierkowski said.

“The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) has detailed plans in place at all of our facilities to manage any type of emergency.

“It is always good to test our skills in a practical way to fine tune our processes if needed.

“Anyone at Nambour Hospital at the time of the drill who sees staff in special protective gear has no need to be alarmed or feel their personal safety is at risk.

“We are just making sure our clinical and support teams have up-to-date training so they can respond appropriately if an emergency situation eventuates,” Dr Swierkowski added.

Staff from the Public Health Unit, infectious diseases, infection control, emergency department, protective services and operational services will be involved in the exercise. Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) will also be involved.

ENDS

Media opportunity – Nambour Hospital, Thursday 27 November at 1.10pm (phone for location and directions)

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