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## Asante Prepares for Ebola Monitoring

It takes a special kind of dedication to volunteer for Asante Ashland Community Hospital's Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) assessment unit, but 15 registered nurses from Asante's three hospitals have signed up for the job.



*Asante Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Mike Beggs plays an Ebola patient during EVD orientation*

On March 3, Asante Ashland held a half-day orientation, which outlined processes and precautions to take to keep patients, guests and staff members safe.



*John Byers, Robin Hanson and Michelle Brown from Asante Rogue Regional*

Ashland is designated as a

Tier 2 assessment hospital, which would provide monitoring and isolation for people who may have been exposed to the virus and are undergoing testing to confirm or rule out the disease.

The nursing team would be on-call at various points throughout the patient's evaluation, which could last up to 96 hours or until test results are received. Some would provide direct care; others would observe the caregiver to ensure that he or she remains safe from contamination.



*Asante Three Rivers EVD volunteers (from left) Michelle Tobey, Jacqueline Davis, Debora Dimmick, Yvonne Groenhout and Amanda Morgan*

"You have courage and you have commitment," Susan Montgomery, vice-president of patient care services, told the group.

Ashland was chosen as an assessment hospital because of its physical layout and its ability to provide isolated rooms that limit the risk of exposure to other patients and staff. To date, the Rogue Valley has had no confirmed cases of Ebola and the risk remains very low.

Nonetheless, the leaders at Asante Ashland want the EVD team to know they're as committed to the staff's well-being as they are to the hospital's patients.

"Your safety is our first priority," Montgomery said. "We're going to take care of you."

Those who have current ACLS certification and would like to participate in caring for Ebola patients may contact [Heather Mackey](#).

