John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Craig W. Butler, Director

Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Treatment of the Ebola Virus in Wastewater Treatment Plants

- If the Ebola virus enters the wastewater collection and treatment system, it enters an environment that is hostile to the survival of the virus.
- The Ebola virus is inactivated through the use of disinfectants such as chlorine or ultraviolet light.
- Wastewater treatment plants in Ohio have multiple levels of waste treatment that will inactivate (kill) the Ebola virus prior to discharge to the rivers and streams.
- Ohio EPA standards require wastewater treatment plants to use physical and biological processes followed by seasonal disinfection to effectively remove bacteria and viruses from the waste stream.
- Wastewater treatment plant workers should follow all Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines and requirements related to exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Treatment of the Ebola Virus in Public Water Systems

- Public water systems in Ohio provide safe water through a multi-barrier approach that includes selection and protection of source water, effective treatment technologies, operational oversight, and monitoring of water quality.
- The Ebola virus is inactivated through the use of disinfectants such as chlorine or ultraviolet light.
- Ohio EPA standards require all community public water systems to use physical and chemical processes followed by disinfection to effectively remove and inactivate bacteria and viruses from the treated water.
- Public water systems that use surface water (e.g. rivers, lakes and reservoirs) as the water source have higher levels of treatment and are specifically designed to remove and inactivate viruses and bacteria.
- Sufficient chemicals are required to be maintained in community public water distribution systems to provide another barrier of protection. Water quality monitoring is required in the distribution system to ensure that proper levels are maintained.