North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

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Dear State Employees,

In light of the recent Ebola cases in Texas and New York, I am writing to provide information about our efforts to prepare for the possibility that a patient in North Carolina might be diagnosed with Ebola.

I want to emphasize that there are no known or suspected cases of Ebola in North Carolina at this time. Regardless, we have been preparing since July for the potential for an Ebola case.

These preparations are being led by staff in the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). They have provided extensive guidance to health care providers and procedures are in place to routinely screen and evaluate patients. Additionally, public health officials are actively monitoring for cases using a variety of methods, including collaborating with a network of hospital-based epidemiologists and surveillance of emergency department visits.

DHHS has also been working closely with the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Public Safety, and Transportation and various other state and federal partners to coordinate any response necessary to protect the health and safety of North Carolinians.

It is important to note that Ebola is only spread through unprotected contact with blood or body fluids from someone who is infected. Also, Ebola is only contagious after the onset of symptoms. Anyone who becomes ill within 21 days after traveling to an affected area in West Africa or being in contact with someone who may be infected with Ebola should contact a health care provider right away and limit their contact with others until they have been evaluated.

If you have any questions about Ebola, North Carolina has a Public Information Line at 1-800-222-1222 (option 6). The information line is available to provide precautionary information to people returning from or traveling to West Africa, answer questions about transmission of Ebola, and provide information to people who believe they may have been exposed. You can also visit http://www.ncdhhs.gov/ebola.

We are very proud of the ongoing preparations and take comfort in knowing that our state’s public health professionals have extensive training and experience in effectively reducing health risks and responding to outbreaks of communicable diseases in order to protect our citizens.

Sincerely,

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Secretary DHHS