



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CENTER FOR
GLOBAL HEALTH

Boston, Massachusetts, USA
August 1, 2014

Dear colleagues,

Given the significant media attention surrounding the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in Africa, and the coincident apprehension for the welfare of healthcare workers and other travelers returning to the United States who may have been exposed to or infected with Ebola, we are aware that there have been many questions and concerns about what is happening at Mass General. Because there is a need to coordinate and streamline our collective response efforts, we believe that it is important to provide you with the following updates and information:

The MGH Center for Global Health has been monitoring the situation in Africa carefully, and working diligently with the Office of Risk Management and other officials at Partners Healthcare and Harvard University to provide appropriate guidance regarding travel abroad and repatriation of staff. We are working closely with our governmental and non-governmental partners regarding the evolving global response. If you have concerns or questions regarding travelers abroad or international response efforts, we ask that you please contact **Dr. Hilarie Cranmer**, who is leading the international coordination effort for Mass General.

At home, the MGH Emergency Preparedness staff have been working carefully with many departments inside the hospital, the other hospitals across Partners Healthcare, and with health officials in Massachusetts to ensure the preparedness of Mass General, and to anticipate concerns and be prepared for whatever situation may come our way domestically. This work has involved ensuring appropriate protocols are in place in the Emergency Department, close collaboration among Infection Control, Infectious Disease, Pathology and Laboratory Services, and as well as numerous other activities with others across the institution in our planning efforts. If you have questions or concerns regarding the MGH preparedness for Ebola issues domestically, we ask that you please contact **Dr. Paul Biddinger**, who is leading the MGH preparedness and response effort.

Although there are many complex issues at play in this outbreak, we have worked hard to prepare Mass General for its potential response, both globally and domestically. We are, as always, proud of the tremendous dedication and expertise of all of our colleagues within the hospital. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to the response efforts so far, though thankfully we have not yet needed to use our plans. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul Biddinger, MD
MGH Medical Director for Emergency Preparedness

Hilarie Cranmer, MD MPH
MGH Center for Global Health, Director of Global Disaster Response