Dear Fellow Members of the NYU Community,

Ebola has been very much on everyone's thoughts -- compassion for those infected, admiration for the courage of the medical professionals who are treating the ill and combatting the infection's spread, and even concerns for our own well-being. It is with this in mind that I write you today.

To start with, you should know that there have been no cases of Ebola at NYU, in New York City, or in our region; it is important to understand that the risk to the NYU community from Ebola is low. However, that does not mean we should not be vigilant and prepared: the safety and well-being of our community is a foremost priority. But understanding the risks should cause us to calibrate our concerns properly as we continue to go about the daily business of research, teaching, and learning.

I want to share with you some information about the steps NYU is taking to keep our community safe.

**Travel Restrictions**

Given the course of the situation in West Africa and our responsibility to protect the health of the community, NYU is prohibiting student, faculty, and staff travel for University purposes -- research, educational, and business -- to three countries: Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia. These restrictions are in keeping with CDC travel warnings; additional countries may be added as the CDC's advice changes.

Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis (e.g.: for faculty who are to be involved in providing care or otherwise providing assistance related to the crisis within the public health system). Those seeking exceptions should be in touch with their school dean's office before making any travel plans. They will be required to meet with medical staff prior to departure to discuss precautions and protocols for return to the NYU campus.

**Other Precautions**

As a global university, we have students, faculty, and staff whose permanent home address or country of origin...
include most of the world's countries. Nonetheless, **travel for personal reasons** to countries under CDC travel warnings is **strongly discouraged**. Likewise, hosting personal visitors or visitors for University-related activities from countries under CDC travel warnings is strongly discouraged for the time being.

- **NYU encourages** those who are committed to personal travel to countries under the CDC travel warnings to be in touch with the Student Health Center (SHC) prior to making your plans (as noted above, traveling to the affected countries on University business is prohibited, other than exceptions made on a case-by-case basis).
- **NYU requires** members of the NYU community who are considering **hosting visitors** from any of the affected countries to consult with staff at Student Health Center prior to the visitor’s arrival.
- **NYU requires** all members of the NYU community who have **traveled to countries covered by the CDC warnings** or who believe they have had **contact with a person infected with Ebola** to be in touch with the Student Health Center before their return to campus.

In addition, we are also taking the following steps:

- The Student Health Center (SHC) has been in touch with the Centers for Disease Control, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the American College Health Association, and the NYU Langone Medical Center to keep abreast of the latest expert information and guidance.
- The SHC has negative-pressure isolation rooms, and staff has been training on how to identify and respond to potential Ebola cases, including an emphasis on getting a travel history from patients and the use of protective equipment.
- The NYU Langone Medical Center has created a team of highly trained specialists to treat anyone who presents there with Ebola; the SHC has been in touch with the Medical Center about transport and hand-off of care in the event that a person with a possible Ebola infection presents first at the SHC.
- We will continue to distribute posters and fliers reminding the NYU community to be in touch with the Student Health Center if they develop a fever after having traveled in the affected areas of West Africa or coming into contact with an Ebola patient.
- The Student Health Center has established a webpage with information about Ebola. We also encourage you to look at the CDC's site and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's site.

The uncertainties surrounding the infection of the two nurses in Dallas are -- unsurprisingly and understandably -- a cause for concern. However, as I noted above, the risk to the people of the NYU community would appear to be very low.

Please know that we will continue to monitor developments in the US and in West Africa closely; we will update you with important, relevant information as it becomes available; and we will continue to be on guard for any developments which might have an impact on our community. I know I can rely on your calm thoughtfulness at this time as, together, we confront this public health challenge. In turn, please know you can rely on our professionalism, skill, access to experts in the field, and, most importantly, concern for your well-being.

If you have any questions, please call the Wellness Exchange (24/7) at 212.443.9999 (or via email at wellness.exchange@nyu.edu) or the Student Health Center at 212.443.1000.

Sincerely,

Carlo Ciotoli, MD