**EBOLA: frequently asked questions**

**What is Ebola?**
Ebola, previously known as Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever, is a rare but serious disease caused by infection with one of the Ebola Virus strains.

**How is Ebola spread?**
Ebola can be spread from person to person and is more commonly transmitted to healthcare workers and family members who care for someone with the disease. It is spread by direct contact with blood and body fluid from an infected individual. Ebola is **not** a respiratory disease like the flu, so it is not transmitted through the air.

**Can I get Ebola from a person who is infected by doesn't have any symptoms?**
No. Infected individuals who are not symptomatic are not contagious.

**What are the symptoms of Ebola?**
Ebola usually presents with sudden fever, chills and muscle aches. Patients can also present with severe headache, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain and unexplained bleeding. Initial symptoms can present anywhere from 2-21 days following exposure, but the average time to onset of symptoms following exposure is 8-10 days.

**How can I protect myself from Ebola?**
- Practice careful hygiene. For example, wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and avoid contact with blood and body fluids.
- Do not handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person’s blood or body fluids (such as clothes, bedding, needles, and medical equipment).
- Avoid funeral or burial rituals that require handling the body of someone who has died from Ebola.
- Avoid contact with bats and nonhuman primates or blood, fluids, and raw meat prepared from these animals.
- Monitor the situation by checking the NYU SHC website, or following the CDC website to see if there have been cases in your area. If there have been, you should avoid non-essential visits to hospitals where those patients are being treated (e.g. volunteer work or internships).
- If you do travel to an affected area, after you return monitor your health for 21 days and seek medical care immediately if you develop symptoms of Ebola.

**What should I do if I think I have been exposed?**
NYU students who are studying in New York should contact the Student Health Center (212-443-1000) or the Wellness Exchange Hotline (212-443-9999); both are available 24/7/365.

For NYU students studying abroad, please contact your local emergency services and let them know you think you have been exposed to Ebola, so they can give you with instructions on how to safely seek emergency medical care. If you are at an NYU Study Away or Portal site, you should also contact the Student Life staff member on duty using the 24-hour emergency number or duty phone.

**What do I do if I still have questions?**
Call the **24 hour Wellness Exchange Hotline** number on the back of your Student ID card, or call the Student Health Center at 212-443-1000 for 24 hour medical assistance and advice.