



Suggested messages on Ebola and Maryland's hospitals

WITHIN HOSPITALS

- The health and safety of **every single patient and employee** at our hospital is of utmost importance. Your hospital leaders are acutely aware of the potential for employees to contract illnesses and we are deeply invested in continuously refining protocols and training, in collaboration with all levels of staff, to minimize that risk. In short, we want to keep all our employees safe and well as we fulfill our mission to care for those in need.
- While hospital workers, like other emergency providers, train regularly for high-risk situations, there is still the potential for complications. In addition to ensuring that training, safety equipment, and protocols are all current, it's important for all hospital employees to rely on one another for support and expertise. In potentially dangerous situations, we are our sisters' and brothers' keepers. **Anyone can make a mistake** — especially in a high-pressure situation. We must safeguard our colleagues.
- There are important lessons to be learned about Ebola, and other infectious diseases, that have come to light in the past couple of months. As this is an evolving situation, it's critically important to digest and analyze any and all new information to refine hospital practices to best meet this challenge. **No single state or federal agency will have all the answers**, and hospital leaders are continuously examining and compiling best practices and protocols from an amalgamation of resources including academic research, day-to-day revelations, and media coverage, as well as shared information from state, federal, and international health agencies.
- We do this from time to time, but it's especially important now to remind ourselves why we have chosen the field we did. Health care is a profession with a higher purpose. There are valid concerns about Ebola, and we must remain highly vigilant to protect ourselves and our communities, but **we have a duty to care for those who are vulnerable and in need**. It is our job and it is our calling.
- Now, more than ever, collaboration among all those involved in caring for the people in our communities — nurses, doctors, EMS providers, hospital support staff, firefighters, police, sanitation workers, health officials, and others — is critical. Now is not the time to second-guess our colleagues as to why Ebola is spreading more quickly than initially thought. Rather, **now is the time to share our collective wisdom to stop Ebola from spreading further**.

WITHIN COMMUNITIES

- The emergence of the Ebola virus in the U.S. has **heightened the awareness of all hospitals and health care workers** about the importance of following strict infection control procedures.
- The health and safety of **every single patient and visitor to XXXX** hospital is of utmost importance. Indeed, the very reason hospitals exist is to heal our patients and make sure they stay healthy. XXXX hospital is deeply committed to maintaining the highest standards and most current protocols and training, to minimize the risk of anyone contracting an infectious disease like Ebola.
- **All of Maryland's hospitals are convening regularly** so that hospital infection preventionists and emergency preparedness leaders receive the latest updates on Ebola management and treatment, and can learn from one another. No single state or federal agency has all the answers to this complex and evolving situation, and hospital leaders are continuously examining and refining best practices and protocols from an amalgamation of resources including academic research, day-to-day revelations, and media coverage, in addition to shared information from state, federal, and international health agencies.
- XXXXX Hospital is **working closely with local, state, and federal health agencies** to ensure we are well-prepared should we have to care for an Ebola patient. Now is not the time to second-guess the reasons why Ebola is spreading more quickly than initially thought. Rather, now is the time to share our collective wisdom to stop Ebola from spreading further.