


MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 15, 2014

TO: IRMC Staff
Medical Staff

FROM: Charles W. Mackett III, MD, MMM, FAAFP 
Senior Vice President & Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: EBOLA

Indian River Medical Center (IRMC) understands there are concerns regarding the Ebola. While the likelihood of an Ebola case in our area is rare, we recognize that the continuing coverage by the media have raised questions about hospital's preparedness to handle any potential cases. Please be assured that IRMC has procedures in place to identify any potential cases and to provide the utmost care and medical treatment.

Our staff communicates daily with the Florida Department of Health (FDH) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to receive the most up to date public health information concerning Ebola. These agencies also provide up-to-date guidelines concerning how to evaluate a potentially infected person and treat them appropriately. This information is then disseminated to our hospital staff and all of our affiliated offices.

We have incorporated the CDC recommendations for patient evaluation into our patient assessment process in order to identify any potentially infected person early on, isolate them, and administer the supportive medical care and treatment needed. Our facility is equipped to apply the strict isolation guidelines established in accordance with the CDC recommendations to protect the staff and public from infection.

To clarify, Ebola is NOT airborne. It can only be spread through the body fluids of a person who is symptomatic. Symptoms include: vomiting, diarrhea, and in some cases bleeding from the nose, nail beds, and eyes. These symptoms occur between 2 and 21 days after exposure to the bodily fluids of a symptomatic person/ infected person.

IRMC is committed to providing the highest quality care and medical treatment possible to our community. We will continue to work with the CDC, FDH, and others to incorporate the most up-to-date information into our medical and emergency room services.
