

HIVMA and the Center for Global Health Policy Call for Evidence-based Response to Ebola Virus Disease, Oppose Mandatory Quarantine of Health Care Workers
Released: October 27, 2014

The HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA) and the Center for Global Health Policy are deeply concerned about the growing Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in West Africa and strongly support U.S. leadership in responding to this public health emergency. We commend the health care workers from the U.S. and other countries who are providing critical medical provider capacity by volunteering in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. A robust health care provider workforce is vital to end Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa and ending this infectious disease at its source is the best protection for preventing serious outbreaks in the U.S. and in other countries. Mandatory quarantine of health care workers will threaten efforts to control Ebola Virus Disease and is not justified based on what is known about Ebola Virus Disease and its transmission.

Evidence-based protocols are important to minimize the risk of transmission from health care workers and other humanitarian aid workers returning from West Africa as well as to ensure infected individuals receive immediate, appropriate and potentially lifesaving medical care. We support the recently updated [recommendations](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that are based on the potential risk of transmission and that call for active monitoring by public health officials of health care workers who have cared for patients with Ebola Virus Disease. We also agree with the positions released by the [Infectious Diseases Society of America](#) and the [Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America](#).

As medical providers and researchers specializing in HIV, we have seen firsthand that public policies not informed by science can fuel rather than control spread of an epidemic. We strongly urge state governments to work with the CDC, their local public health officials and the infectious diseases and epidemiology experts in their state to develop an appropriate and effective response to Ebola Virus Disease.

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[HIVMA](#) is the professional home for more than 5,000 physicians, scientists, and other health care professionals dedicated to the field of HIV/AIDS. Nested within the Infectious Diseases Society of America, HIVMA promotes quality in HIV care and advocates policies that ensure a comprehensive and humane response to the AIDS pandemic informed by science and social justice. The Center for Global Health Policy is a project of the IDSA Education and Research Foundation dedicated to promoting the effective use of U.S. funding for addressing the global HIV/AIDS and TB epidemics. The Center's blog [ScienceSpeaks](#) offers news and analysis on the latest developments in HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB) and other relevant global health issues.