



Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health



Office of the Director

October 23, 2014

Dear District of Columbia Healthcare Professional,

This week my team and I visited all acute care hospitals in the District, and I am pleased to report that all have taken significant preparedness measures to tackle infectious diseases, such as the Ebola Virus Disease (Ebola). As part of my commitment to keep all nurses, physicians and health professionals informed and engaged about preparedness, the District of Columbia, Department of Health (DOH) has launched www.Ebola.DC.Gov; a website intended to provide you current District-related preparedness information on Ebola.

The Department of Health has, and will continue a proactive response to Ebola planning and preparedness. Currently, Ebola poses no significant risk to the United States and there are no confirmed cases in the District of Columbia. The Department will continue to monitor the situation and we will work with health facilities and providers to take preventative measures to stay abreast of the disease, its symptoms and its potential, while working to prevent its transmission. In the event of a confirmed case of Ebola, the Department will lead a tactical response unit, working closely with the health facility, and our federal partners to assure good health outcomes and the safety of all our healthcare workers.

The United States has one of the best healthcare systems in the world, and the District stands at its forefront. That well-earned reputation is primarily attributed to your advanced knowledge and expertise as healthcare professionals. Therefore, I wish to continue our dialogue on Ebola preparedness and ask for your active participation. We look to you to help build a culture of confidence in your patients and to advance the quality of care we provide in all of our health facilities in the Nation's capital.

Again, I encourage you to visit www.Ebola.DC.Gov for District-related preparedness information along with a link to a video on recommended methods to don and doff personal protective equipment (PPE). Additionally, please check the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html for more information on preparedness for healthcare workers.

Again, I thank you for your public health leadership.

Sincerely,



Joxel Garcia, MD, MBA
Director, DOH

cc Rikin Mehta PharmD, JD, LLM Sr. Deputy Director, DOH/HLRA