UCSF Ebola Task Force Update

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of both the campus and medical center UCSF Ebola Response Task Forces, we write with an update to our current efforts. As you know, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services has designated UCSF Medical Center as an Ebola treatment center – the only hospital in San Francisco to earn this designation. This is a reflection of the hard work of hundreds across the medical center and campus who continue to prepare for and respond to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), both here and in West Africa. Read more at: http://www.ucsf.edu/news/2014/12/121596/ucsf-receives-national-designation-ebola-treatment-center

Altogether, 35 hospitals nationally were identified by U.S. officials as Ebola treatment centers, based on their ability to provide the necessary staff, training, equipment, and other resources to treat patients with the unique care requirements of EVD.

We strongly believe that we have a societal obligation to protect the people of California from an epidemic spread of EVD and that the best way to do this is to control EVD at its source. Thus, we have created a system to facilitate volunteers’ participation in care, treatment and disease control activities in West Africa as well as to minimize barriers that might have an impact on involvement. We have updated the guidelines for these travelers to reflect the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This also includes requirements that all travelers complete a checklist, register with iJet, and obtain departmental approval prior to leaving to West Africa.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of our faculty and staff to support UCSF’s Ebola response, including more than 75 individuals who have donated vacation hours.

For the latest news and information, please go to the UCSF Ebola response website: http://www.ucsf.edu/ebola

Sincerely,

Theresa O’Brien, PhD
Co-Chair
UCSF Ebola Response Task Force

George Rutherford, MD
Co-Chair
UCSF Ebola Response Task Force

Adrienne Green, MD
Associate Chief Medical Officer
UCSF Medical Center