

Joint statement from the Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA), the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), the Organization of Nurse Leaders of MA-RI (ONL), the American Nurses Association Massachusetts (ANAMASS), and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers on Ebola Preparedness

October 22, 2014

All Massachusetts healthcare providers, including nurses, physicians, community health centers and hospitals are working collaboratively to address the evolving concerns surrounding the presence of the Ebola virus in the United States. We have a common goal in this effort – to strive for the highest level of preparedness and ensure that all hospital, health centers and clinical staff are able to safely provide high quality, appropriate, patient care. We are committed to ensuring nurses, physicians, and all appropriate frontline healthcare providers have the proper training, equipment and protocols to remain safe and provide the highest quality of care for our patients.

We are working closely with the state Department of Public Health (DPH), federal officials, and local organizations on education and preparedness planning. Preparation is an ongoing process that demands continued perseverance and improvement. Every day clinical leaders across the state are focused on ensuring that proper protocols are in place and followed, and that appropriate training and education is provided.

Preparations for combatting infectious diseases always raise questions among the public and those who would care for infected patients. It is important that the public and all healthcare stakeholders are educated about Ebola so that legitimate concerns are addressed and unfounded concerns do not distract from vital preparedness efforts. The healthcare community in Massachusetts will work together in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect to achieve these shared objectives. As the nature of our work at times can put us in harm's way, it is therefore necessary for all healthcare providers and staff to care for each other, and to safeguard our colleagues, especially in high-pressure situations.

(MORE)

As DPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issue new and updated information and guidance, we will continue working to ensure the proper identification, testing, determination for treatment, and coordination of care for patients who present with Ebola-like symptoms, along with the transmission of such information to DPH, CDC, and other authorities. Massachusetts nurses, physicians, community health centers and hospitals are committed to maintaining a strong and collaborative effort to address Ebola's threat to public health.

###