

SEAN PATRICK MALONEY
18TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5441

123 GRAND ST., 2ND FLOOR
NEWBURGH, NY 12550
(845) 561-1259

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3218

October 14, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Over these past few months, the Ebola virus has spread across several African countries, infected thousands of people and killed more than all previous outbreaks combined. As of today, there exists no proven drug to prevent or treat the Ebola virus which kills nearly half of all people who contract it. Like many of my friends and neighbors in the Hudson Valley, I am concerned about the domestic public health risks now that the Ebola virus is on American soil. I urge your administration to take further measures to protect Americans and combat the spread of this deadly communicable disease.

Given the nature of the virus, my constituents and I do not believe that the new entry and exit procedures and screenings at JFK Airport and Newark Airport are sufficient to stop Ebola from spreading in our country. I believe your administration must do more and immediately implement a travel ban from those countries experiencing this Ebola outbreak until they have sufficiently defeated the epidemic. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola, but the average is 8 to 10 days. Many Americans are concerned that their lives will be jeopardized by a traveler that leaves an outbreak area exhibiting no signs or symptoms at all, only to have their symptoms manifest in the United States. Therefore, I also request that you consider the possible quarantine of any individual who has traveled to or from any of the West African countries experiencing an outbreak for the duration of the virus's dormancy period so as to ensure that they do not become a danger to the public.

I believe that we should bring other agencies such as FEMA and FAA into the government's response to Ebola prevention in the United States. The CDC's failure to properly handle the initial case of Ebola in Dallas, Texas shows that we need additional support and coordination at the federal level. In the wake of healthcare workers in Dallas being exposed to and contracting Ebola, it is clear that the stakes are too high and the consequence too dire to not consider taking every necessary precaution to protect the health of the general public. I hope that the CDC will develop additional guidance for our nation's healthcare workers when interacting with patients.

In addition to the public health crisis that Ebola poses to our country, I am also very concerned about the safety of the American troops and healthcare workers abroad in countries affected with Ebola. They are being asked to undertake a very dangerous mission, which could result in contracting Ebola.

This public health crisis requires immediate and decisive action by your administration. I respectfully request that you update my office on what further actions, if any, will be taken to ensure that the public is protected from this horrific disease.

Sincerely,



Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress