October 29, 2014

Dear colleagues,

Given the ongoing Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa, various stakeholder groups have begun to develop and distribute policies and procedures for the prevention, diagnosis, management, and containment of the disease should it arrive in the Maritimes. Dalhousie Medical School and the Faculty of Health Professions have been in contact with these groups and will be involved in ongoing discussions about policies and procedures that potentially impact Dalhousie learners.

In the interim, and interest of keeping learners safe and minimizing exposure to the virus, Dalhousie has developed a position statement to govern learner involvement:

In cases of known or suspected Ebola, learners at all levels (including residents) will be specifically excluded from said patients' care. This includes exclusion from direct or indirect patient contact, handling specimens, and laboratory testing of samples from such patients.

Further, all elective or global health experiences involving learners in regions affected by the Ebola epidemic are to be cancelled until the disease is controlled and these regions are declared Ebola- free.

It is not possible to exclude learners from exposure to patients in the pre-diagnosis phase of illness, in settings such as outpatient clinics and emergency departments. Therefore, learners should familiarize themselves with the clinical presentation of the disease and maintain a high index of suspicion in those with compatible illness or recognizable risk factors. This position is consistent with that of other medical schools within Canada and has been endorsed by the dean of Dalhousie Medical School and the dean of the Faculty of Health Professions.

Further [educational information on Ebola disease](#) is on the Government of Canada's website.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please contact Dr. Thomas Marrie, dean of medicine (t.marrie@dal.ca) or Dr. William Webster, dean of health professions (will.webster@dal.ca) for further information.