Dear Colleagues:

This email serves to update you on our Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) response in preparation for providing care for patients at UCSF. As always, our first priority is to ensure the safety of all of our employees while providing care to the thousands of patients we see every day.

Extensive efforts over the last two months have involved a task force with key stakeholders from Infection Control, Nursing, Critical Care Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Lab Medicine, and the Office of Emergency Preparedness. UCSF leadership has been working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and San Francisco’s Department of Public Health, and we have consulted other institutions to gain knowledge of best practices in EVD management or training including Emory, Nebraska, and UCLA.

Currently all patients in the Emergency Department (ED) and the Screening and Acute Care Clinic (SACC) are screened at triage for high-risk travel history. If a patient is identified as at risk for Ebola, the patient will be isolated by staff using recommended personal protective equipment (PPE), and key leaders will be notified. If a patient at risk for Ebola infection (fever and recent travel to West Africa) presents to an ambulatory clinic, the patient should be placed in an exam room, the door closed, and Infection Control is to be called immediately at (415) 806-0269.

Adult and pediatric inpatients will be placed in a designated ICU room and treated by providers who are specifically trained in the use of PPE. Plans are being finalized for safe laboratory testing, waste management and any other actions that will ensure staff safety. A designated Ebola team, consisting of volunteer nurses and faculty physicians, is being identified and will receive extensive training for the care of Ebola inpatients. Trainee physicians (residents/fellows/medical students) will not be involved in the care of these patients. Only the minimum of medically essential staff will be providing care. Access to patient care rooms will be tightly restricted and monitored by the Environmental Health and Safety’s Emergency Response Team. Measures are being taken to ensure that employees and other patients in the units will not be put at risk.

Please take this opportunity to remind your staff of the critical importance of hand hygiene and personal protective equipment as part of your daily routine.

We will continue collaborating with our colleagues around the country and will coordinate all of our efforts with the Centers for Disease Control and both state and local health departments. A FAQ with additional details will be forthcoming. A town hall meeting is scheduled for next Friday, October 24, 2014 from 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.

Please be assured that your safety and that of our patients are our top priority. This is an evolving process and we will continue to communicate to you on a regular basis. If you have questions, please visit the Ebola resource page or email us at ebola@ucsf.edu.

We greatly appreciate and value the professionalism with which you care for our patients every day.

Sincerely,