

April 12, 2016

Dr. Mary Travis Bassett
Commissioner
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
125 Worth Street
New York, New York 10013

Re: Ebola Virus Update

Dear Commissioner Bassett:

I hope this letter finds you well.

Staten Island has the largest population of immigrant Africans in New York City, many of whom are from countries that were hardest hit by the recent Ebola virus crisis. Through the leaders of these communities it has come to my attention that the problem is still one of great concern, especially regarding travelers to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, where, I have been told, Ebola has flared up once again.

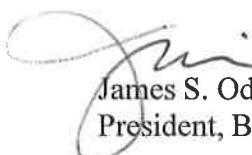
I have been in contact with the Liberian Cultural Association and other members of the Staten Island African Community, and they asked me to pose the following concerns and questions:

1. What current measures are in place by the DOHMH to ensure that people traveling from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone and who are entering New York City and/or surrounding communities are not infected with the virus?
2. What current program(s) has DOHMH put in place to ensure public awareness on EBOLA flare up in West Africa?
3. If no programs have been put in place by DOHMH on the current EBOLA flare up in West Africa, when will DOH have these programs running and put in place?

These Staten Islanders have very close ties with these West African countries, and strike me as very aware of conditions on the ground there. I would appreciate it if you could address these concerns and update me at your earliest convenience.

I thank you for your kind attention, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

