Important Announcement Regarding Ebola

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are top priorities at Triton College. With the Ebola virus making local and national headlines, we feel it is important to share with you information about this virus and the college’s preventative measures that are always in place.

The Illinois Department of Public Health is working with the state’s local health departments to provide timely information about the spread of this virus. Officials from Triton College would be notified immediately by the Cook County Department of Public Health, if any additional steps are needed to protect students and staff against the Ebola virus.

Here’s what you need to know about the virus:

- The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa. Although the risk of an Ebola outbreak in the United States is very low, the CDC and local health departments are taking precautions to prevent an outbreak from happening.

- It is a rare and potentially fatal disease caused by infection with a virus of the family Filoviridae, genus Ebolavirus.

- A person infected with Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear. The virus can only be spread through bodily fluids. You cannot get it through air, food, or water.

- Symptoms typically include: fever (greater than 101.5 F), severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain and unexplained bleeding or bruising.

- Those at highest risk include healthcare workers and family and friends of a person infected with Ebola. Signs and symptoms of the disease occur 2-21 days from exposure.

- As in most cases of communicable diseases, the best prevention is to always wash your hands with soap and water, always cook your food properly and to go to a health care facility when you have a headache, fever, pain, diarrhea, red eyes, rash and vomiting.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has set up a 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week, Ebola hotline – the hotline number is 1-800-889-3931. If you would like more information about the Ebola virus, please visit the following websites:

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH): [http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hbebola.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/public/hb/hbebola.htm)
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR): [http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ebola/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/responders/ebola/Pages/default.aspx)

To prevent any communicable diseases, we always stress with students and staff the importance of washing hands and covering mouths when coughing, and to stay home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone, without the use of a fever reducing medicine. If we learn of any updates regarding the Ebola virus in Illinois, please know we would communicate with you immediately and take the necessary steps to keep our students and staff safe.