



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

This afternoon, President Obama traveled to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to discuss the deployment of humanitarian assistance in response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. While the actions the President outlined are a step in the right direction, what was lacking in his announcement was a discussion of actions being taken at our ports of entry to protect against the spread of this epidemic to the homeland.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) screens approximately one million international travelers each day at ports of entry. In light of this volume, it is vital that protocols are in place to detect passengers with communicable diseases, including Ebola. In an effort to ensure the health security of our Nation, I request a response to the following questions:

1. How does CBP monitor inbound passengers to detect infected passengers on a daily basis?
2. What steps has CBP taken since the Ebola outbreak to enhance its screening?
3. How is the Department, in conjunction with appropriate Federal agencies, such as the CDC, training CBP Officers to identify symptoms of Ebola and other diseases?
4. What guidance have you provided to DHS personnel who may come in contact with infected passengers regarding the use of personal protective equipment?

I share your commitment to securing the homeland from all threats, including pandemics. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure we are prepared to address these threats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael T. McCaul".

MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Chairman