



**Cleveland Institute of Art**

## **MEMORANDUM**

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To: Parents and guardians of Cleveland Institute of Art students  
From: Grafton J. Nunes, President + CEO  
Re: Ebola precautions and protocols  
Date: October 17, 2014

I write to you today to address concerns you may have after learning that one of the Texas nurses diagnosed with the Ebola virus spent time in Northeast Ohio before her symptoms appeared Oct. 14. First and most importantly, I want you to know that we have no confirmed cases of direct contact with this individual, or of indirect contact—that is, interactions with someone else who had direct contact with this most recently diagnosed U.S. Ebola patient—among anyone at CIA, or nearby Case Western Reserve University or Cleveland Institute of Music.

Second, the health and emergency management personnel at Case (our student healthcare provider) have been following the outbreak in Africa since the summer, and preparing internally for the possibility of exposure of a member of the student communities at Case, CIA, and the CIM. Case Health Services has extensive protocols in place regarding infectious diseases, and also benefits from the guidance of internationally renowned experts on the Case faculty and additional health professionals at nearby hospitals and medical centers.

We at Cleveland Institute of Art take this issue seriously, and are doing everything we can to protect the safety of our students amid a time of significant anxiety nationwide. At the same time, we also feel a strong obligation to assess the situation using all of the scientific and medical information available, and to refrain from alarmist reactions that escalate fear without actually addressing concrete issues. This balance is delicate, and particularly challenging to achieve as new updates regularly arrive. Our tendency will be to err on the side of overabundant caution, and we ask your understanding should instances arise where we later discover we acted too strongly relative to the actual risk posed. In this instance, we believe the adage that begins, “Better to be safe,” carries the greatest wisdom.

In this context, we have advised our entire campus community regarding the presence of this patient on a Cleveland-to-Dallas flight Monday evening, and conveyed the request from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that passengers on that trip, Frontier Airlines Flight #1143, contact the CDC. We also have provided the community the CDC contact number (1.800.CDC.INFO/1.800.232.4636) as well as the link to its website ([cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html](http://cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html)) with extensive information regarding Ebola. Finally, we have directed students who have questions and/or symptoms to contact University Health Service at 216.368.2450. University faculty and staff have been advised to notify their supervisors of symptoms and then contact their own health care providers.

I will continue to provide the campus community information regarding the virus and relevant local and Health Services updates, and also write to you as circumstances warrant. Please know that the safety of your student is our paramount concern, and we will continue to do all that we can to protect them.