

*Poor handling of a health crisis*

Lost in the Ebola virus articles is the broader concern over the ability of the U.S. public health system to deal with larger crises, such as a genuine disease outbreak in the United States or bioterrorism.

The sad reality is that a mere three cases of Ebola has highlighted a broken chain of command between local and federal health agencies, ineffective or absent protocols, contradictory statements to the nation and world (which exacerbate unrest), an inability to monitor at-risk persons and a confused and rightly concerned public. One would have assumed that a plan existed for a situation such as Ebola.

As the United States fights Ebola at home and in West Africa, let us hope that the public health system reevaluates its procedures for dealing with health crises.

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