



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

October 13, 2014

Dr. Tom Frieden
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta Georgia 30333

Dear Director Frieden:

We respectfully request that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reconsider its decision not to conduct enhanced screenings of passengers traveling from West Africa to the Minneapolis – St. Paul International Airport (MSP).

Recently, we learned the CDC decided to implement additional screenings at five airports and decided not to conduct screenings at MSP. Dr. Arnold Vang from the CDC's Airport Quarantine Station at MSP believes 99 percent of passengers from West Africa will have already been screened for Ebola twice, once before leaving West Africa, and once at a connecting airport in the United States or Europe. While 99 percent is a comforting statistic, the Ebola experience in Dallas, Texas has taught us that even one case of Ebola in our state or country can have devastating consequences.

Our request is that the CDC conduct heightened screenings of all passengers with Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea in their travel history when they arrive at MSP. At a minimum, we ask that the CDC do additional screenings at MSP of passengers traveling from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea if they have not already been screened twice. If Dr. Vang's statistics are correct, this would impact a small number of passengers and have little cost.

Minnesotans are generous and welcoming people, and our state is home to one of the largest Liberian communities in the country. Ebola has already touched the lives of many Minnesotans as they hear about and pray for family, friends, and loved ones struggling with the disease in Liberia. We hope to work with you to do everything we can to prevent the disease from spreading to Minnesota.

Additionally, Minnesota has some of the highest rates of volunteerism in the country and Minnesotans are mobilizing to assist with the Ebola crisis in West Africa. West Africa needs assistance and many Minnesotans stand ready to help. As Minnesotans leave for and return from West Africa, we must do everything to protect them from contracting Ebola and bringing it back to Minnesota.

Thank you for your immediate consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Amy Klobuchar.

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Al Franken.

Al Franken
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Mark Dayton.

Mark Dayton
Governor