

**From the Chief Medical Officer**  
Dr Michael McBride

HSS(MD) 41 /2014



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

To:

Chief Executive Public Health Agency  
Chief Executive Health & Social Care Board  
Chief Executives HSC Trusts  
Chief Executive NIAS  
Chief Executive RQIA  
GP Medical Advisers  
All General Practitioners and GP Locums  
*(for onward distribution to practice staff)*

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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: HSS(MD) 41 /2014  
Date: 22 December 2014

Dear Colleague

## **EBOLA OUTBREAK IN WEST AFRICA – CURRENT AND FUTURE HSC VOLUNTEERS - GUIDANCE ON RETURNING TO WORK**

### **ACTION REQUIRED**

**Chief Executives should ensure that this letter is circulated to:**

- **All Medical and Nursing Staff in HSC and those on the circulation List highlighted in this letter and HR Directors**

**The HSCB should ensure that this letter and guidance is circulated to all GPs and GP Locums.**

**RQIA should circulate to independent hospitals with admission and treatment facilities.**

### **Summary**

1. I am writing to you as a potential host to current and future Health and Social Care (HSC) volunteers going out to support the fight against Ebola in affected countries. I issued a letter in October HSS (MD) 32/2014 providing guidance for staff working within Health and Social Care who wished to volunteer to support the humanitarian crisis in West Africa. As you will be aware, the existing programme managed by UK-MED on behalf of the UK Government, has been based on placements of eight weeks, including training and at least two week's leave on return. We wish to notify you of an update to Public Health England's advice for individuals returning from Ebola affected countries.
2. The main change in the guidance is that returning HSC volunteers, who have had direct physical contact with Ebola cases as part of clinical care, will now be advised to wait three weeks before they return to work that involves direct



## **Circulation List:**

Medical Directors of HSC Trusts  
Executive Medical Director/Director of Public Health, PHA  
Assistant Director of Public Health (Health Protection), PHA  
Director of Nursing and AHPs Public Health Agency  
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts  
Directors of HR HSC Trusts  
Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, HSCB  
Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts  
GP Medical Advisers, HSCB  
All Community Pharmacists  
Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust  
Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust  
Prescribing Advisers, HSC Trusts  
Regional Drug and Poisons Information Service  
Brendan Whittle, SEHSCT (NI Prison Service)  
Professor Linda Johnston, Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery QUB  
Dr Owen Barr, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster  
Diane Taylor, Head of HSC, Leadership Centre  
Donna Gallagher, Open University  
Universities Student Health Services  
Occupational Health Departments Boards/Trusts  
NICS Occupational Health  
Dr Tom Black, Chair of BMA  
Dr Keith Gardiner, Chief Executive/Postgraduate Medical Dean, NIMDTA  
Mr Simon Reid, Acting Chief Dental Officer, DHSSPS  
Charlotte McArdle, Chief Nursing Officer, DHSSPS  
Jemima Keyes, Nursing and Midwifery Unit, DHSSPS  
Angela McLernon, Chief Executive NIPEC  
Northern Ireland Pathology Network