In the wake of global concerns about the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, NCSSM recognizes that members of the community and their families may have questions about NCSSM’s preparedness and the global status of this international public health emergency. This FAQ will address some of these questions. This information may evolve as conditions change (current information as of November 7, 2014).

For additional information, please refer to the sites below:
North Carolina Division of Public Health
UNC General Administration
CDC

**What is the risk of exposure to the Ebola virus at NCSSM?**
The risk of being exposed at NCSSM, or anywhere in the U.S., is low unless a person has direct, unprotected contact with the body fluids of a person (like urine, saliva, feces, vomit, sweat and semen) who is sick with Ebola.

**What parts of the world are affected by Ebola virus?**
- National and international health authorities are currently working to control a large, ongoing outbreak of Ebola involving the West African countries of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone since March 2014.
- The first case identified in the United States was confirmed on September 30, 2014, and the first case acquired in the United States was confirmed on October 12, 2014.
- The CDC has emphasized that the outbreak poses "little risk" to the general U.S. population, and health officials "are confident we would not have a spread of Ebola even if we were to have a case here."

**How is Ebola transmitted?**
- In order for the virus to be transmitted, an individual would have to come into direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of a person who has the Ebola virus, or be exposed to needles, medical equipment or other objects contaminated with infected secretions.
- Ebola cannot be transmitted through food, water or air.

**What protective measures is NCSSM taking to safeguard the health of the NCSSM community?**
- NCSSM continues to refine school preparedness by contacting local hospitals, EMS teams, Durham County Department of Public Health, UNC/Duke Infectious Disease specialists and UNC System Schools to determine, for example: 1) where members of the school community should be directed for evaluation of exposure and symptoms, 2) how the school, emergency transport, and local hospitals will respond to various scenarios if a member of the school community presents with symptoms.
What if I plan to take personal travel to or through an Ebola-impacted area?
  ● The CDC has issued a travel warning against any nonessential travel to the affected areas.
  ● NCSSM is encouraging all students, parents and staff who are planning personal travel to or through Ebola-impacted areas to notify Terry Lynch, Vice Chancellor for Student Life, at (919) 416-2801 as early as possible.
  ● NCSSM wants to monitor personal travel in order to assure that travelers continue to receive the latest guidance.

What do I do if I think I have been exposed to the Ebola virus?
  ● An NCSSM student, faculty member or staff person who has traveled to any of these countries within the past 21 days should contact Terry Lynch, Vice Chancellor for Student Life, at (919) 416-2801 before returning to campus.
  ● Persons arriving in the U.S. from an Ebola-impacted area or any traveler should monitor their health and, if feeling sick, should contact their health provider immediately and tell him or her about their recent travel and potential contacts before they go to the doctor’s office or emergency room, to prevent potential transmission to others.
  ● Please remember, Ebola is rare. There are many more common infections that cause flu-like symptoms. No matter what the cause of your symptoms, prompt medical care is important for your well-being and to protect others.
  ● Students with exposure to the blood or other bodily fluids of someone who is diagnosed with Ebola should call the NCSSM Student Clinic at (919) 416-2891 before returning to campus regarding instructions on how to monitor their health.

What do I do if I’m planning to receive visitors that have traveled to or through Ebola outbreak areas?
  ● NCSSM encourages all students, parents and staff who are receiving visitors that have traveled to or through Ebola-impacted areas to notify Terry Lynch, Vice Chancellor for Student Life, at (919) 416-2801.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions or concerns?
  ● For general questions, an Ebola public information line has been established by Carolinas Poison Center. The number is 1 (800) 222-1222, and callers should press 6 for questions about Ebola.
  ● Students who have concerns about their health should contact the NCSSM Student Health Clinic at (919) 416-2891. Staff with questions about their health should contact their healthcare provider.