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Critical Guidelines for Health Care Workers Who Deploy to West Africa for the Ebola Response

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The recent report “Academic Institutions’ Critical Guidelines for Health Care Workers Who Deploy to West Africa for the Ebola Response and Future Crises” was very interesting.¹ Cranmer et al mentioned a “lack of sufficient and qualified [health care workers].” In fact, a team of volunteers to work in West Africa assisting those affected by the outbreak is a good thing. However, good preparation for a team of volunteers before an actual mission is necessary. At least, there should be a short training course on the new disease before health care workers are allowed to enter the outbreak area.² Patel et al noted that “existing community health programs can be used as a platform to train volunteer health advisors in times of epidemics for quick dissemination of vital health information in areas lacking adequate health infrastructure and personnel.”³ Finally, preparation for management of possible infected volunteer health care workers is required. There must be a good primary management and a referring back system.

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