

Ebola, fear and preparedness

Viroj Wiwanitkit

Wiwanitkit House, Bangkhae, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Editor,

The editorial on “Ebola, fear and preparedness” is very interesting [1]. As noted in the Editorial, “it is necessary for South Korea to make strategies to the outbreak by using present facilities as quickly as possible [1].” and “it is also imperative that the government establish suitable communication with its citizens to prevent the spread of uninformed fear and anxiety regarding the Ebola outbreak [1].” In fact, in any new emerging disease, the main problems are a) lack for information and knowledge for medical worker and b) sense of fear of panic for the general population [2]. To give the information to the general population in the early phase of outbreak can sometimes be difficult due to lack of data. The information might be too much or too little and it is necessary to update the information. Giving “fair information” to the general population is very important. To disguise fact should be avoided and this is the challenge for public health worker during epidemic. As noted by Davis et al. [3], “effective pandemic control requires a systematic dialogue with the publics.” At this phase, when the information is still incomplete, it is important to set up an information center to gathering all data and further analyzing and distributing it to

governmental policy maker, health care worker and general population [4].

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare for this study.

REFERENCES

1. Ki M. What do we really fear? The epidemiological characteristics of Ebola and our preparedness. *Epidemiol Health* 2014;36:e2014014.
2. Wasswa H. Uganda gears up to contain Ebola epidemic as fears of spread cause panic. *BMJ* 2012;345:e5210.
3. Davis M, Stephenson N, Flowers P. Compliant, complacent or panicked? Investigating the problematisation of the Australian general public in pandemic influenza control. *Soc Sci Med* 2011;72:912-918.
4. Lin C, Lin CM, Yen DC, Wu WH. The integrated information architecture: a pilot study approach to leveraging logistics management with regard to influenza preparedness. *J Med Syst* 2012;36:187-200.

Correspondence: Viroj Wiwanitkit

Wiwanitkit House, Bangkhae, Bangkok 10160, Thailand
Tel: +6624132436, E-mail: wviroj@yahoo.com

Received: Aug 20, 2014, Accepted: Aug 28, 2014, Published: Aug 28, 2014

This article is available from: <http://e-epih.org/>

© 2014, Korean Society of Epidemiology

© This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.