

# Ebola-infected Texas health worker boarded Midwest flight

**DALLAS (AP)** — The Ebola crisis in the U.S. took another alarming turn Wednesday with word that a second Dallas nurse caught the disease from a patient and flew across the Midwest aboard an airliner the day before she fell ill. President Barack Obama canceled a campaign trip to address the outbreak.

Though it was not clear how the nurse contracted the virus, the case represented just the latest instance in which the disease that has ravaged one of the poorest corners of the earth — West Africa — also managed to find weak spots in one of the world's most advanced medical systems.

The second nurse was identified as 29-year-old Amber Joy Vinson. Medical records provided to The Associated Press by Thomas Eric Duncan's family showed she inserted catheters, drew blood and dealt with Duncan's body fluids.

Duncan, who was diagnosed with Ebola after coming to the U.S. from Liberia, died Oct. 8.

Kent State University in Ohio, where three of Vinson's relatives work, confirmed she was the latest patient.

Even though the nurse did not report having a fever until Tuesday, the day after she returned home, she should not have boarded an airliner after learning that another nurse, Nina Pham, had been diagnosed with Ebola, government officials said Wednesday.

Dr. Tom Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said no one else involved in Duncan's care will be allowed to travel "other than in a controlled environment."

Infected Ebola patients are not considered contagious until they have symptoms. Frieden said it was unlikely that other passengers or airline crew members were at risk because the nurse did not have any vomiting or bleeding.

Even so, the CDC is alerting the 132 passengers aboard Frontier Airlines Flight 1143 from Cleveland to Dallas-Fort Worth on Monday



A Frontier Airlines employee wears gloves as she directs passengers where to go at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport. - PHOTO: AP

"because of the proximity in time between the evening flight and first report of illness the following morning." Officials are asking them to call the health agency so they can be monitored. The woman flew from Dallas to Cleveland on Oct. 10.

Kent State said it was

asking the workers related to Vinson to stay off campus for 21 days "out of an abundance of caution."

The nurse reported a fever Tuesday and was in isolation within 90 minutes, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins said. "We are looking at every element of our per-

sonal protection equipment and infection control in the hospital," said Dr. Daniel Varga, chief clinical officer for Texas Health Resources, which operates Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas.

In Washington, the White House said Obama's trip to New Jersey and Connecticut

would be postponed to a later date. The president was to meet with top officials who are coordinating the government's response to Ebola.

His decision to nix the trip — just a few hours before Air Force One was scheduled to depart — reflected the urgency of the situation amid escalating concerns about the disease.

The second nurse will be transferred to a special bio-containment unit at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, where other Ebola patients have been successfully treated, Frieden said. Pham will be monitored in Dallas to determine the best place for her care, Frieden said.

The CDC has acknowledged that the government was not aggressive enough in managing Ebola and containing the virus as it spread from an infected patient to a nurse at a Dallas hospital.

"We could've sent a more robust hospital infection control team and been more hands-on with the hospital from day one about exactly how this should be managed," he said Tuesday.



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## Secrets of 18th-century well explored

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Two professional marine archaeologists from Florida — Amanda Evans and Della Scott-Ireton — are visiting the island to help with the preservation effort.

"We're in the process now of going through the bags and literally washing things, cleaning the dirt off, so that we can get an idea of what was found. And then we will re-bag everything properly and label it, so that it can be analyzed better in the future [and] that it will be in a state where it can be curated for a while," said Ms. Scott-Ireton, associate director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network.

The step well, which has eight roughly hewn steps leading to a spring-like pool of water that is still deemed potable by the Cayman Islands Water Authority, was a major water source for residents in Hog Sty Bay in the 1700's. However, it later became a dumping ground due to contamination of the well, archaeologists believe.

"It looks like the well was filled in with trash ... It is not uncommon to find wells with trash in it," said Ms. Scott-Ireton.

The step well effectively became a time capsule, containing items from different time periods, including: English slipware [pottery]



Glass, pottery, ceramics and animal bones are among the many items found in the George Town step well. - PHOTO: CHRIS COURT

from 1750, clay smoking pipes and tin glazed enamel wear from the 1700's, and intact bottles that date from the mid 1800's to the early 20th century.

"The mix of time periods is really interesting," said Ms. Evans. "George Town Harbor has been in use for hundreds of years and so the fact that we have this one particular site that shows so much time within one discrete area is really interesting."

Ms. Evans, senior marine archaeologist at survey service company Tesla Offshore, added, "You've got older items that were possibly used and reused and

newer materials all kind of jumbled together so it gives us a good picture of what was happening off the books, how people were living, the things that don't necessarily get recorded in history."

Members of the public can still view the step well, now preserved under glass, at the Bayshore Mall.

The two marine archaeologists plan to dive "The Glamis" shipwreck site in East End later this week. The site contains a ship that was built in Scotland in 1876 and wrecked under Norwegian flag in 1913, said Ms. Leshkar-Denton.