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Governors, Army Impose Own Ebola Quarantines

BY DAVID PORTER AND COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday recommended new restrictions for people at highest risk for coming down with the Ebola virus and symptom monitoring for those at lower risk, but some state governors and even the Army are carving their own paths.

As contradictory state policies proliferate in response to Ebola fears, the CDC's recommendations mark an effort to create a national standard, one that would protect public health without discouraging people from helping fight its spread overseas.

The CDC now says even if people have no symptoms and are not considered contagious they should stay away from commercial transportation or public gatherings if they have been in direct contact with the bodily fluids of someone sick with Ebola — say, by touching their fluids without protective gear or by suffering an injury from a contaminated needle.

Absent that direct contact, simply caring for Ebola patients or traveling in West Africa doesn't warrant quarantine conditions, the public health agency said.

But quarantines are determined state by state in the U.S., and the CDC is empowered only to issue guidelines. And even within the federal government, authorities were improvising Monday: A U.S. Army commander in Italy said he and his troops returning from Liberia would remain in isolation for 21 days, even though he feels they face no risk and show no symptoms. The Army's chief of staff, Gen. Ray Odierno, directed the 21-day controlled monitoring period for all redeploying soldiers returning from the Ebola fight in West Africa, an Army spokeswoman said.

A nurse who volunteered with Doctors Without Borders in Africa was released after being forced to spend her weekend in a tent in New Jersey upon her return, despite showing no symptoms other than an elevated temperature she blamed on "inhumane" treatment at Newark International Airport.

President Barack Obama has told his Ebola team that any measures involving health care workers should be crafted to avoid unnecessarily discouraging people from responding to the outbreak. That's already happening, Doctors Without Borders said Monday: Some medical workers are reducing their time in the field to include potential quarantines afterward.

"The best way to protect us is to stop the epidemic in Africa, and we need those health care workers, so we do not want to put them in a position where it makes it very, very uncomfortable for them to even volunteer to go," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

But the governors of New York and New Jersey defended their quarantine policies as necessary precautions in deal-



JOE BURBANK/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT New Jersey governor Chris Christie delivers remarks in support of Gov. Rick Scott during a campaign stop in Ormond Beach, Fla., Monday. Christie is among a handful of governors who has announced their own quarantines in regards to the West Africa Ebola outbreak.

ing with a virus that already has killed nearly half the over 10,000 people infected this year in West Africa. Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams said that the decision to isolate returning troops was taken to ensure their family members' comfort, even though none is showing symptoms, and he does not believe any soldier under his command is at risk.

Speaking by telephone from a U.S. base in Vicenza, Italy, Williams said he and his soldiers will be living in isolation under controlled monitoring during the three weeks it takes to be sure Ebola hasn't infected them. Williams returned to Italy Sunday with 10 soldiers with another 65 due back in two groups by Saturday.

It's just "normal concern," Williams said. "There was nothing elevated that triggered this increased posture."

A senior defense official said Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is expected to review the recommendations on Ebola but has made no decision. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the Pentagon's policy on isolating returning personnel has not been settled and implemented yet.

Also absent is any uniform response within the United States to the increasing number of people and medical volunteers returning from Ebola-stricken countries in Africa.

"The response to Ebola must not be guided primarily by panic in countries not overly affected by the epidemic," said Sophie Delaunay, the U.S. director of Doctors Without Borders.

New York's and New Jersey's governors announced Friday that any health care workers returning from West Africa to their states would face mandatory 21day quarantines. New York's and New Jersey's governors announced Friday that any health care workers returning from West Africa to their states would face mandatory 21-day quarantines. Other states including Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota and Georgia have since announced measures of their own.

Some other governors, like Rhode Island Democrat Lincoln Chafee, urged his colleagues Monday to "ratchet down some of the hysteria," since scientists have repeatedly said that people carrying the virus are not contagious until they show symptoms.

Ebola fears can have consequences beyond public health. New York City school officials warned principals to be on the lookout for bullying of West African students after two brothers from Senegal, which the World Health Organization declared Ebola-free this month, reported being taunted with chants of "Ebola."

Meanwhile, nurse Kaci Hickox was on the road, driving in a private car from New Jersey to her home in Maine. She was freed Monday from the quarantine tent where Gov. Chris Christie said she had been kept since Friday "because she was running a high fever and was symptomatic" at the outset.

Hickox denied that — she said she never had symptoms and tested negative for Ebola.

Her criticism of the quarantines was backed by the White House, American Civil Liberties Union, the United Nations secretary-general and the American Medical Association's president. The New England Journal of Medicine said governors imposing mandatory quarantines on health workers "have it wrong."

But New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, backed his Republican neighbor Christie in calling the quarantines "entirely reasonable."

"You could say I am being overcautious," Cuomo said. "I would rather be, in this situation, a little overcautious."

NSA: Court Challenges Taking Shape

WASHINGTON (AP) — While Congress mulls how to curtail the NSA's collection of Americans' telephone records, impatient civil liberties groups are looking to legal challenges already underway in the courts to limit government surveillance powers.

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Three appeals courts are hearing lawsuits against the bulk phone records program, creating the potential for an eventual Supreme Court review. Judges in lower courts, meanwhile, are grappling with the admissibility of evidence gained through the NSA's warrantless surveillance.

Advocates say the flurry of activity, which follows revelations last year by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden of once-secret intelligence programs, show how a post-9/11 surveillance debate once primarily hashed out among lawmakers in secret is being increasingly aired in open court — not only in New York and Washington but in places like Idaho and Colorado.

"The thing that is different about the debate right now is that the courts are much more of a factor in it," said Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union. Before the Snowden disclosures, he said, courts were generally relegated to the sidelines of the discussion. Now, judges are poised to make major decisions on at least some of the matters in coming months.

Though it's unclear whether the Supreme Court will weigh in, the cases are proceeding at a time when the justices appear increasingly comfortable with digital privacy matters — including GPS tracking of cars and police searches of cellphones.

Late Dem Ads Hit Hard At Republicans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Their majority in jeopardy, Senate Democrats unleashed a late-campaign round of attack ads Monday accusing Republicans in key races of harboring plans to cut Social Security and Medicare.

The commercials in Iowa, New Hampshire, Louisiana and elsewhere appear aimed at older voters, who cast ballots in relatively large numbers in midterm elections and have tended to support Republicans in recent years.

One ad, airing in Iowa, shows Republican candidate Joni Ernst on videotape saying, "Yes, I have talked about privatizing Social Security."

Another, which began appearing in New Hampshire during the day, says that while Scott Brown was a senator from Massachusetts he voted to "cut Medicare and Social Security while giving tax breaks to millionaires and oil companies."

Gretchen Hamel, a spokeswoman for Ernst, countered that the "Democratic attacks on Social Security are as predictable as they are false." Jennifer Horn, Republican chairwoman in New Hampshire, said that Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, Brown's opponent, "cast the deciding vote for Obamacare that cuts Medicare by \$716 billion."

Official: Allies Must Counter Message

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The United States is pressing Arab nations and other allies to do more to counter the Islamic State group's slick propaganda campaign, with a top American envoy on Monday describing efforts to combat the extremist messages as a vital pillar in the fight to defeat the group.

The Islamic State group that has seized large parts of Iraq and Syria and declared a self-styled caliphate, or Islamic empire, in areas under its control embraces social media platforms such as Twitter and YouTube.

Hollywood-style film clips and other elements of its media campaign boost the group's credibility among disaffected but plugged-in young Muslims and helps it promote its conquests, inspire sympathizers and attract new recruits.

Speaking at a gathering of anti-IS coalition partners in the oil-rich Gulf nation of Kuwait, retired U.S. Gen. John Allen said it is up to all members of the alliance to "clearly, forcefully and consistently" reject the group's ideology and offer alternatives to it.

Allen, who is tasked with coordinating the U.S.-led coalition, characterized the fight in the communications sphere as a crucial element of an overall strategy that also includes confronting the group militarily and attempting to cut off its finances.

Sheriff: Washington School Shooter Invited Victims To Lunch

BY GENE JOHNSON AND TED WARREN Associated Press

MARYSVILLE, Wash. — A popular student responsible for a shooting at a Washington state high school invited his victims to lunch by text message, then shot them at their table, investigators said Monday.

Snohomish County Sheriff Ty Trenary said at a news conference that the five students were at a lunch table Friday when they were shot by 15-year-old Jaylen Fryberg. Fryberg then committed suicide.

Detectives are digging through reams of text messages, phone and social media records as part of an investigation that could take months, Trenary said.

"The question everybody wants is, 'Why?" Trenary said. "I don't know that the 'why' is something we can provide."

Fryberg, a football player who was named a prince on the school's homecoming court a week before the killings, was a member of a prominent Tulalip Indian Tribes family. He seemed happy although he was also upset about a girl, friends said. His Twitter feed was recently full of vague, anguished postings, like "It won't last ... It'll never last," and "I should have listened. ... You were right ... The whole time you were right." On Friday, after texting

five friends to invite them to lunch, he pulled out a handgun in the cafeteria and started shooting. The victims were Zoe R. Galasso, 14, who died at the scene; Gia Soriano, 14, who died at a hospital Sunday night; Shaylee Chuckulnaskit, 14, who remains in critical condition; and his two cousins, Nate Hatch, 14, and Andrew Fryberg, 15.

Andrew Fryberg also remained in critical condition. Hatch, who was shot in the jaw, is the only victim who has shown improvement. He was upgraded to satisfactory condition Monday in intensive care at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. He posted a message of forgiveness on Twitter. "I love you and I forgive you jaylen rest in peace," he wrote. A friend confirmed the feed's authenticity to The Associated Press.

Soriano's family said her organs would be donated. "We are devastated by

this senseless tragedy," her family said in a statement, read at a news conference by Providence Regional Medical Center's Dr. Joanne Roberts. "Gia is our beautiful daughter, and words cannot express how much we will miss her."

Trenary also confirmed that the .40-caliber handgun used in the shooting had been legally purchased by one of Jaylen Fryberg's relatives. It remains unclear how the boy obtained the weapon.

The Snohomish County medical examiner on Monday ruled Fryberg's death a suicide. There had been some question over whether he might have shot himself accidentally as a teacher tried to intervene, but Trenary said Monday that investigators confirmed there was no physical contact between the teacher and the gunman. At the memorial outside

the school Monday, a group of mourners hugged each other tightly at 10:39 a.m. the minute the shooting was reported Friday. Flowers and signs were zip-tied to a chain-link fence lined with red and white balloons reflecting the school's colors. Many referenced the victims and said they'd be missed. KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — As Ukraine's most ardently pro-European parties pocketed a resounding collective election triumph Monday, thoughts turned to a reform agenda that promises pain and progress in equal doses.

Although the outcome of Sunday's vote is in part fruit of a surge in anti-Russian sentiment, Moscow says it will recognize the result and urged Ukraine's new order to grapple with the country's most pressing problems.

With 72 percent of the vote counted Monday, the three main Western-leaning parties alone stood to win a combined 54 percent of the vote. Coalition negotiations were already underway.

Parliament is now largely purged of the loyalists of former President Viktor Yanukovych, who sparked months of protests — and eventually his ouster in February — with his decision to deepen ties with Russia instead of the European Union.

Of the European-minded parties, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk's Popular Front had 21.9 percent of the vote while President Petro Poroshenko's party had 21.5 percent. A new pro-European party based in western Ukraine was running third with 11 percent.

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