

The Politics Of The Ebola Virus

NEW YORK (AP) — Two ambitious governors — one Republican, one Democrat — known for their no-nonsense, take-charge style in a calamity have set off a furor with their aggressive handling of the Ebola crisis, and how it plays out could shape their political futures.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie won praise for their decisive response to Superstorm Sandy two years ago, and their reaction to Ebola seemed rooted in the same philosophy: They would take bold steps to reassure a jittery public with a display of bipartisan cooperation.

But their style this time has proved far more divisive. “This is a big moment, and a lot of people are watching carefully,” said William Eimicke, professor of public affairs at Columbia University. “It’s about balance and judgment, and voters will remember if this was handled well or not.”

The two men hurriedly put together a mandatory, three-week quarantine plan for health care workers returning from Ebola-stricken West Africa that has come under fire from the White House, medical groups and some quarters of the media, even as the new guidelines were emulated by other states and seemed to influence the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which tightened its recommendations.

Commercial Supply Rocket Explodes

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — An unmanned commercial supply rocket bound for the International Space Station exploded moments after liftoff Tuesday evening, with debris falling in flames over the launch site in Virginia. No injuries were reported following the first catastrophic launch in NASA’s commercial spaceflight effort.

The accident at Orbital Sciences Corp.’s launch complex at Wallops Island was sure to draw criticism over the space agency’s growing reliance on private U.S. companies in this post-shuttle effort.

NASA is paying billions of dollars to Orbital Sciences and the SpaceX company to make station deliveries, and it’s counting on SpaceX and Boeing to start flying U.S. astronauts to the orbiting lab as early as 2017. NASA spokesman Rob Navias said there was nothing on the lost flight that was urgently needed by the six people living on the space station.

Orbital Sciences’ Antares rocket blew up over the launch complex, just six seconds after the liftoff. The company said everyone at the site had been accounted for, and the damage appeared to be limited to the facilities.

Flames could be seen shooting into the sky as the sun set. There was no hint of any trouble until the rocket exploded. This was the second launch attempt for the mission. Monday evening’s try was thwarted by a stray sailboat in the rocket’s danger zone. The restrictions are in case of just such an accident that occurred Tuesday.

Lava Burns Empty Shed In Hawaii

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP) — After weeks of slow, stop-and-go movement, a river of asphalt-black lava destroyed a wooden shed Tuesday as it crept closer to homes in a Big Island community.

The lava flow easily burned down the empty shed at about 7:30 a.m., several hours after entering a residential property in Pahoa Village, said Hawaii County Civil Defense Director Darryl Oliveira.

A branch of the molten stream was less than the length of a football field from a two-story house. It could hit the home later Tuesday if it continues on its current path, Oliveira estimated.

Residents of Pahoa Village, the commercial center of the island’s rural Puna district south of Hilo, have had weeks to prepare for what’s been described as a slow-motion disaster. Most have either already left or are prepared to go. At least 50 or 60 structures — including homes and businesses — are in the area likely to be hit.

Father Of Accused Teens Is Confused

DENVER (AP) — One of three suburban Denver girls who authorities say tried to join Islamic State militants in Syria was confused about what her role would be if she had actually made it there, the girl’s father said Tuesday.

“She told me they were going to get there and somebody is going to contact them,” said the father of a 16-year-old Sudanese girl, who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because he is concerned for the girls’ safety. “I ask her, ‘Who’s that person?’ She actually didn’t have a clear idea about what’s going on. They’re just like, you know, stupid little girls. They just want to do something, and they do it.”

The FBI says the 16-year-old and her friends, 15- and 17-year-old sisters of Somali descent, were headed toward Turkey en route to Syria when authorities stopped them on Oct. 20 at the Frankfurt, Germany airport. They sent them back to Denver, where FBI agents again interviewed them before releasing them to their parents without pressing charges.

They’re safe now, but the father said he is still troubled by lingering questions about their intentions, who recruited them online and how they were so easily able to board a plane and head overseas.

The FBI is focusing on what contacts they had in Syria, having searched the girls’ computers for clues.

Murder Charge Filed Against Deputy

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — A northern New Mexico sheriff’s deputy was charged with an open count of murder Tuesday after he allegedly fired several rounds from his handgun as his colleague tried to flee an alcohol-fueled argument at a hotel, police said. Deputy Tai Chan, a warrant officer with Santa Fe County, was being held without bond at the Dona Ana County Detention Center. The shooting happened just after midnight at Hotel Encanto in the southern New Mexico city of Las Cruces, where the two Santa Fe County deputies had stopped to spend the night after transporting a prisoner to Safford, Arizona.

Federal Health Official Fauci: States Have Options For Ebola Patients

BY JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For Americans wondering why President Barack Obama hasn’t forced all states to follow a single, national rule for isolating potential Ebola patients, the White House has a quick retort: Talk to the Founding Fathers.

A hodgepodge of state policies, some of which directly contradict Obama’s recommendations, has sowed confusion about what’s really needed to stop Ebola from spreading in the United States. While public health advocates denounce state quarantines as draconian and scientifically baseless, anxious citizens in non-quarantine states are asking whether they’re at greater risk because their governors and the president have adopted a lesser level of caution.

If public health departments across the country aren’t singing the same tune, that may be by design.

Although the Constitution empowers the federal government to isolate sick people entering the U.S. or traveling between states, it’s the states themselves that have the bulk of the authority to regulate public health in America — including the decision to enforce quarantines within their borders.

“I guess you can take that up with James Madison,” said White House spokesman Josh Earnest, referring to the fourth president and key drafter of the Constitution, when asked why there was no binding federal policy. That’s ironic, perhaps, coming from an administration that Republicans typically accuse of exceeding its legal authority on issues like immigration, health care and foreign policy.

With states and localities having broad authority to impose quarantines themselves, Earnest said the fed-



BOB ANDRES/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/MCT
Ebola patient Amber Vinson and Dr. Bruce Ribner, medical director of Emory University Hospital and Serious Communicable Disease Unit speak to the media at a press conference following Vinson's release from the hospital on Tuesday.

eral government’s role was to “marshal scientific evidence” for best practices to stop Ebola’s spread. On Monday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did just that.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease at the National Institutes of Health, defended the Washington policy Tuesday, but said that states have a right “to go the extra mile” if they wish.

In an appearance on ABC’s “Good Morning America,” Fauci declined to criticize the more stringent quarantine policies implemented in New York and New Jersey by Govs. Andrew Cuomo and Chris Christie. “They’re doing it in good faith.”

Christie said Tuesday he feels the CDC’s latest guidance is “incredibly confusing.”

“The CDC is behind on this,” he said on NBC’s “Today” show. “Governors ultimately have responsibility to protect the public

health of people within their borders.”

Fauci, appearing on CNN, said the CDC guidelines are “based on the science, on what we know and how it’s transmitted.”

Obama planned Tuesday afternoon to telephone members of disaster assistance response team the U.S. sent to West Africa in August to deal with the Ebola outbreak, said White House spokesman Josh Earnest. Obama also planned to make a statement about the call to the media before departing for a political trip to Wisconsin.

For the first time, the CDC recommended 21 days of isolation and travel restrictions for people at highest risk for Ebola — a nurse stuck by a needle while treating an Ebola patient in Guinea, for example — even if they have no symptoms.

But the recommendations are just that: recommendations.

States are still free to go above and beyond the CDC guidelines. And if states were

to opt to be more lenient, there’s next to nothing Obama could do to force their hand.

Case in point: An order issued Friday by New Jersey, like one in New York, requires three-week quarantines for anyone who treated Ebola patients in West Africa — not just those deemed high-risk because of a needle-stick or failure to use proper protective gear. But under the new federal guidelines, those lower-risk workers merely must have their temperatures monitored twice a day.

Legal experts say New York and New Jersey could be on shaky legal ground. To justify infringing on an individual’s civil liberties, like freedom of movement, states face a high bar to prove their orders are based on science and epidemiology. Courts also like to see that states are acting as narrowly as possible rather than in broad strokes, such as lumping together everyone who treated Ebola patients even if they’re healthy.

Iraqi Kurds Head To Fight Militants In Syria

BY BRAM JANSSEN
AND ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — Thousands of cheering, flag-waving people gave a noisy send-off to a group of Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga troops who left Tuesday for Turkey — the first step on their way to help their Syrian brethren fight Islamic extremists in the embattled border town of Kobani.

The unprecedented mission by the 150 fighters to help fellow Kurds in their battle with the Islamic State group came after Ankara agreed to allow the peshmerga cross into Syria via Turkey — although the Turkish prime minister reiterated that his country would not be sending any ground forces of its own to Kobani.

A U.S. State Department official confirmed that peshmerga fighters are on their way to Kobani but did not know when they were expected to arrive. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be identified in discussing the issue.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told the BBC that sending the peshmerga was

“the only way to help Kobani, since other countries don’t want to use ground troops.”

The Islamic State group launched its offensive on Kobani and nearby Syrian villages in mid-September, killing more than 800 people, according to activists. The Sunni extremists captured dozens of Kurdish villages around Kobani and control parts of the town. More than 200,000 people have fled across the border into Turkey.

The U.S. is leading a coalition that has carried out dozens of airstrikes targeting the militants in and around Kobani.

The deployment of the 150 peshmerga fighters, who were authorized by the Iraqi Kurdish government to go to Kobani, underscores the sensitive political tensions in the region.

Turkey’s government views the Syrian Kurds defending Kobani as loyal to what Ankara regards as an extension of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, or PKK. That group has waged a 30-year insurgency in Turkey and is

designated a terrorist group by the U.S. and NATO.

Under pressure to take greater action against the IS militants — from the West as well as from Kurds inside Turkey and Syria — the Turkish government agreed to let the fighters cross through its territory. But it only is allowing the peshmerga forces from Iraq, with whom it has a good relationship, and not those from the PKK.

Peshmerga spokesman Halgurd Hekmat said the fighters were flying Tuesday to Turkey and from there would cross into Syria. He gave no further details.

A convoy of Toyota land cruisers and trucks with cannons and machine guns headed toward the Iraqi Kurdish area of Dohuk on the way to Turkey.

Peshmerga soldiers carrying Kurdish flags were atop some of the vehicles. The troops made the victory sign for the cameras. An ambulance and government vehicles blaring their sirens accompanied the convoy.

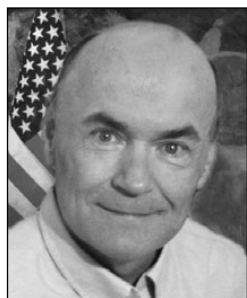
Scores of people waited by the side of the road in vil-

lages for the troops to pass. In the city of Dohuk, thousands of children and elderly people were on hand. Many held colorful Kurdish flags and large photos of Kurdish regional President Massoud Barzani as they shouted support.

The Kurds of Syria and Iraq have become a major focus in the war against the Islamic State group, with Kurdish populations in both countries under significant threat by the militants’ lightning advance as they seek to establish an Islamic caliphate in the region.

The Kurdish parliament voted overwhelmingly to send fighters to Kobani, underscoring the growing cooperation among the Kurds in Iraq and Syria. The action marked the first mission for the peshmerga outside Iraq.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said U.S. officials “certainly encourage” the deployment of Iraqi peshmerga forces to Kobani.



Jay Williams
District 18 House

Education

State aid to education is lower now than 5 years ago.
I will work to restore funding for education.

Fair Wages

I worked to get the minimum wage increase on the ballot.
I will advocate for hard working South Dakotans.

Health Care

The Legislature refused \$250 million in Federal Medicaid.
I will work to secure these funds for our State.

Paid for by Win With Williams



Balloon Sinus Dilation has given new hope to patients not responding well to medications and are seeking relief from uncomfortable and painful sinusitis symptoms.

Experience Relief

Balloon Sinus Dilation is a breakthrough sinus procedure that opens sinus passages to relieve pain and pressure associated with chronic sinusitis. Whereas previously formal surgery in the operating room was the only option, now a less invasive option that is clinically proven to be safe, effective and improve the quality of your life is available.



We perform Balloon Sinuplasty to eligible patients in our office under local anesthesia.

Call 605-665-1220 to schedule your appointment and see if Balloon Sinus Dilation is right for you.