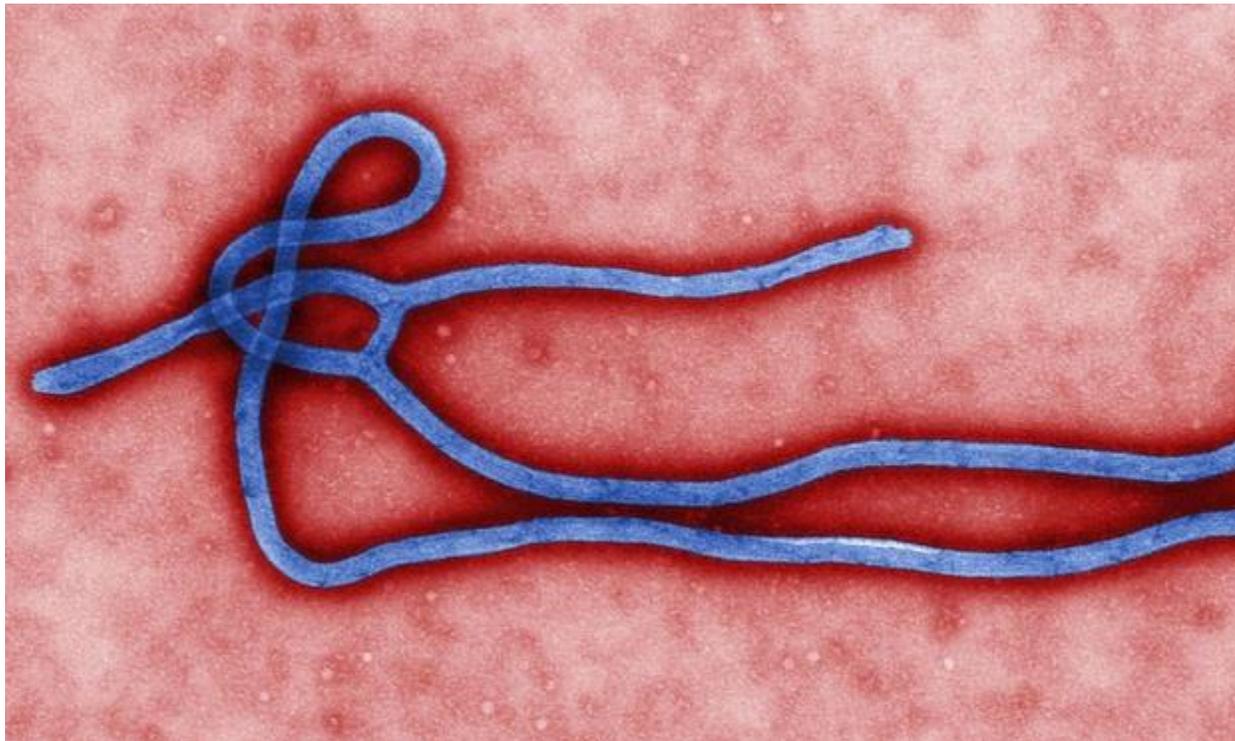


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Nurse at Dallas Ebola Hospital Hires Fort Lauderdale Lawyer

Adolfo Pesquera, Daily Business Review

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The Ebola virus under a microscope *Image: CDC Public Health Image Library*

A nurse who treated a fellow nurse who contracted the Ebola virus in Dallas is taking time off and retained a noted Fort Lauderdale plaintiffs firm rather than return to work.

Briana Aguirre, 30, contacted Robert W. Kelley of the Kelley/Uustal firm after concluding Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas was not adequately protecting staff from the lethal virus, Kelley said.

With Kelley by her side, Aguirre was interviewed Thursday by Matt Lauer of NBC's "Today Show." She told Lauer the biohazard outfits given to nurses left a 3-inch gap that exposed the chin, mouth and nose.

Kelley later told the Daily Business Review that Aguirre searched for legal advice on the Internet and contacted his law firm because of its reputation for whistleblower and medical malpractice litigation. Kelley said no decision been made about whether to file a lawsuit.

"Right now, we are just monitoring the situation and making sure that her interests are protected," Kelley told the DBR.

Aguirre assisted in the treatment of Nina Pham, who helped care for Thomas Eric Duncan before he died. He was the first person in the United States to be diagnosed with Ebola, which he contracted in Liberia.

In another development, a jetliner that carried a second infected Dallas nurse, Amber Joy Vinson, stopped in Fort Lauderdale after she got off in Dallas.

Republican Gov. Rick Scott, who is caught in a tight re-election race, lashed out at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Protection's Ebola response. He asked the CDC to notify all passengers on the Frontier Airlines jet within 24 hours of Vinson's departure, which would include the plane's Fort Lauderdale leg.

"We have seen from the CDC's own admission that they have failed to get ahead of this disease's spread in America to date, and we will do everything we can in Florida to get the CDC's full engagement to protect our Florida healthcare workers, our citizens and our visitors," Scott said.