

From: Addo-Ayensu, Gloria [mailto:Gloria.Addo-Ayensu@fairfaxcounty.gov]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2014 4:40 AM  
To: Spies, Erica L. (CDC/ONDIEH/NCIPC)  
Subject: Epi-Aid request

Dear Dr. James Mercy,

Since October 1, 2014, there have been 3 suicides among high school students in the Fairfax County Public School System in Fairfax County, Virginia. Public health officials, school administrators in the public school system, parents, and wider community are concerned about a possible suicide cluster among high school students in the public school system. While the school system and community have dedicated resources to several suicide prevention activities, the community has become increasingly concerned due to the 16 suicides that have already occurred among youth in 2014. These recent deaths have left the community concerned that there might be unidentified factors contributing to suicide risk and unmet needs for preventive action. Consequently, the Fairfax County Health Department and the Virginia Department of Health are urgently requesting CDC's assistance in investigating youth suicide and making recommendations for a public health response to prevent additional suicides among Fairfax County youth.

The Director of Health of Fairfax County Health Department, Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, formally invites the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to perform an investigation in Fairfax County, Virginia via an Epi-Aid. The objectives of the investigation are to characterize the extent of fatal and non-fatal suicidal behavior, identifying risk factors for suicide among youth, and to recommend measures to prevent additional suicides among Fairfax County youth.

Thank you.  
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