



Ebola: Politics as usual?

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WASHINGTON (MyNews4.com & KRNV) -- Concerns about Ebola are showing up on campaign trails and in political ads across the nation; and with a little more than two weeks left before election day, it's clear the virus is no longer just a public health issue -- it's a political issue.

Although the health issue impacts so few, it is on the minds of many, including President Obama.

"We've got an all-hands-on-deck approach across government to make sure that we are keeping the American people safe."

His critics say that's not happening, even though an 'Ebola Czar' was appointed last week.

"Two weeks ago, the president should have demonstrated real leadership to protect American citizens," says Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas.

Michael Tanner of the CATO Institute has this to say: "No politician lets a crisis go to waste."

Tanner says, for better or for worse, Ebola falls in a series of crises Republicans are hoping illustrate signs of weakness in the White House.

"We see the intelligence failures about the rise of ISIS, then we see the Secret service can't stop someone from running across the White House lawn and going inside and now this," says Tanner.

Indeed, it's coming up on the campaign trail and in conversations with constituents.

"The President does have the authority to affect a control on travel to this country from Western Africa and he needs to exercise that control," says Rep. Michael Burgess of Texas.

Despite the long list of things that affect a much larger part of the population, many of those issues have all but disappeared in the messaging wars. But Ebola as a political football is front and center -- and it seems to be something both sides agree is fair game.

An ad by a left-leaning group puts the blame squarely on the Republicans for putting spending cuts above safety. "Make a cut... Republican cuts kill," it says.

Tanner says this too is purely politics at play.

"It's not like the President was down there in Dallas telling nurses not to put on protective gear we do have problems with the CDC and their protocols but this is not something you can blame on the president," Tanner says.

But blame on both sides will likely continue -- at least until the last polling stations close on election day.