

EBOLA JITTERS FOR SOME NEW YORKERS

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ing through Penn Station, one of the most crowded places in the city. “It’s only one confirmed case. I’m certainly not completely hysterical — that makes little sense.”

And yet, in a place where space of any kind is at a premium and where a day is a series of countless physical interactions — from the newsstand to the morning coffee guy to the

packed evening commute — it seemed hard for many not to feel a tad uneasy.

On the L train — another line Spencer had ridden — a group of schoolgirls in uniform passed around a bottle of hand sanitizer. Construction worker T.J. DeMaso, 41, said he was concerned. “If the outbreaks get any more common, I’ll be moving out of the city,” he said. “You could catch it and not even know it. You could bring it home to your kids. That’s not a chance I want to take.”

Others were more relaxed.

Evangeline Love was riding the train to her job with the city Human Resources Administration. “I saw the mayor and the governor,” she said. “There’s no need for hysteria. I’m here.”

Also there: school social worker Alicia Clavell, 55, reading a newspaper story about the Ebola case. “I feel they have it under control,” she said. “I’m just hoping this is an isolated incident.”

On the elevated High Line on the far West Side — also a place Spencer reported visiting, along with a Brooklyn bowling

alley — Dean BeLer, a 68-year-old tourist from Williamsburg, Virginia, was taking in the view. He said New York appeared to have done a good job of handling things, “compared to the fiasco in Dallas.”

Jen Paul, 43, was taking photos. “I’m not particularly afraid,” she said. “I don’t generally handle other people’s body fluids. It would be a shame if the bowling alley and other businesses were to suffer because of needless fears.”

Back at Spencer’s Harlem building, Tanya Thomas, who lives on the fourth floor, said

she’d felt proud to hear that a doctor from Doctors Without Borders was living there, and was more concerned for him than for herself.

“If I get it, I get it,” said the 47-year-old office assistant.

But for Stan Malone, 45, who lives across the street, things were bad enough to make him — and three family members who live in Spencer’s building — pack up for a hotel, where they stayed Thursday night.

“I don’t think this is gonna be the last case,” said Malone, who said he was on his way to buy a protective mask. “To be

honest, I don’t even want to talk to people.”

Outside Bellevue on Friday, Suraya Yesmin felt similar fears. “Where is the man with Ebola?” asked Yesmin, of Ozone Park, Queens. She’d brought her 10-year-old daughter to see a dentist at the hospital, but ended up leaving.

“It’s because of the virus,” she said. “We’re scared.”

But Mayor De Blasio visited the isolation unit at Bellevue where Dr. Spencer is being treated on Sunday, saying that he’s “looking better.”



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