**Response to editorial comments, Manuscript 54117\_R3\_120715:**  
  
*• Your manuscript has been modified by your editor, please maintain the current formatting throughout the manuscript.****Please use the updated manuscript located in your Editorial Manager account (under “File Inventory”) (for all subsequent revisions****. Updated manuscript is also attached to this email; Please track the changes in your word processor (e.g., Microsoft Word) or change the text color to identify all of the manuscript edits.*

**Thank you for your edits. We have used the updated manuscript and tracked changes in the revised manuscript by changing text color to blue (‘54117\_R3\_120715\_cbm’).**

*• Discussion: Please elaborate on the future applications of this technique, and troubleshooting.  
\*The second last paragraph of the Introduction (“Since most clinical.....these contaminants”) discusses the critical steps within the protocol and briefly discusses troubleshooting. Please move this paragraph to the Discussion section.*

**We moved the referenced paragraph with minor modifications to the Discussion section in the revised manuscript.**

*• Step 2.5: Please rewrite the Note for clarity (especially, stopping point). Does stopping point indicate that the protocol step can be stopped at this point?; 3.5: It is not clear what “Stopping point” means. Please briefly explain stopping point as a “Note”. Does stopping point indicate that the protocol step can be stopped at this point?*

**In the revised manuscript, we replaced this statement with “Safe cold storage step”.**

*• Representative Results should refer to all of the results figures. Please briefly discuss Figure 3 in the results section in paragraph form.*

**In the revised manuscript, we add a sentence describing Figure 3 in the Representative Results.**

*• In Table 2, are the “KGH” and “KULESH” indicators identifiers for the hospital/location at which samples were collected? In your rebuttal letter, you state that “KGH is Kenema Government Hospital in Sierra Leone, where the Ebola primers were tested. Kulesh is the investigator who designed the primer set”. Please provide these details in the Table legend. Please define all abbreviations.*

**In the revised manuscript, we provided this information and a reference for each.**