

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Guidance for Primary Health Care Providers in Saskatchewan

The risk of Ebola in Canada remains low. Early identification and proper management will protect the public and health care workers

Ask all patients about the following:

- A. In the past 21 days have you been in a country where there is a widespread transmission of Ebola¹ or a country where it² is endemic³ AND do you currently have or have you recently had a fever or other symptoms consistent with Ebola⁴?
OR
 - B. In the past 21 days have you cared for, come into contact with body fluids, or handled clinical specimens from an individual known or strongly suspected to have Ebola AND do you currently have or have you recently had a fever or other symptoms consistent with Ebola⁴?
- **If yes to A or B, (Ebola virus disease is suspected):**
 - **Isolate the patient in a private exam room and close the door;**
 - **Collect information** using the attached “Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Assessment Form”.
 - **Contact the Medical Health Officer in your health region and the Infectious Disease specialist on-call immediately. (Regina: 306-766-4444; Saskatoon: 306-655-1000)**
 - **If no to A and B, assess for other illness.**

Take appropriate precautions during the initial assessment

- Minimize contact with the patient.
- Minimize the equipment, exam rooms and waiting areas that will require disinfection.
- **Do not** take vital signs, draw blood or collect any other specimens. Specimens will be collected and processed in designated facilities in Regina and Saskatoon.
- Provide patient with a surgical or procedure face mask to wear.
- **Do not** send the patient to the local ER. If the patient needs to be sent to Regina or Saskatoon **EMS must be advised** of the possible diagnosis. **Patients suspected of EVD are to be transported by EMS to designated facilities in Regina and Saskatoon.**
- **Do not** direct the patient to find their own means of transportation to the designated facilities.
- **Do not** use the exam room that has been occupied by a patient suspected of having EVD until after seeking direction from the Medical Health Officer.
- **Do not** attempt to clean the waiting or exam room until receiving direction from the MHO.
- **Do** post a “Do Not Enter” sign and leave the door of the exam room closed until cleaning directions are confirmed by the MHO and cleaning has been done.
- **Take names** of all patients in the waiting room, in the event that contact tracing is needed.

Additional Information: See Over

1. **Viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF):** Includes Ebola virus disease, Marburg virus disease and Lassa fever for the purposes of this document.
2. **Widespread transmission of Ebola virus disease is occurring in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.**
For up-to-date information see WHO outbreak news at <http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/ebola/en/>
3. **VHF endemic countries:**
Ebola virus disease: Western, Central and Eastern Africa; outbreaks have occurred in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire.
Marburg virus disease: Central and Eastern Africa; outbreaks have occurred in Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
Lassa fever: Western and Central Africa, in particular Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.
4. **Other signs and symptoms of VHF include:** headache, joint and muscle aches, abdominal pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, lack of appetite, rash, red eyes, hiccoughs, cough, chest pain, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, bleeding inside or outside the body.
5. **Infectious Disease Physician on call:** request ID consult as per usual referral patterns through:
Regina General Hospital switchboard (306) 766-4444 OR
Royal University Hospital switchboard (306) 655-1000