



Office of the Medical Health Officers

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TO: Saskatoon Health Region Employees and Physicians
FROM: Deputy Medical Health Officer Dr. Johnmark Opondo
DATE: Wednesday, October 22, 2014
RE: Preferred Site for Adult Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Patient Care

As part of our ongoing Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) planning and preparedness efforts, Saskatoon Health Region's Senior Leadership Team has endorsed a recommendation from the EVD planning team to choose **St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) as the preferred site for admitting and caring for adult EVD patients. Discussions are underway to determine the preferred site for maternal and pediatric EVD patients.**

Adult EVD patients will be cared for on the second floor of St. Paul's Hospital in the area adjacent to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), typically unoccupied and formerly used as the Progressive Care Unit (PCU). Having a dedicated space of this nature is in line with national standards.

Why St. Paul's Hospital?

The layout of the former PCU area of SPH permits us to effectively **contain and isolate EVD** patients and the EVD virus without closing an existing unit and hampering patient flow:

- there is secured direct access to the area via the Emergency Department elevator;
- we can care for up to eight patients;
- an ante room, bathroom and kitchen facilities are housed in the area; and
- the area is adjacent to the ICU and an ICU Intensivist will be Most Responsible Physician (MRP) for any adult patients.

The area also allows us to better **manage patient and staff safety, reduce secondary exposure to EVD and manage EVD waste** (linens, etc.):

- the area can be modified slightly for effective personal protective equipment (PPE) application and removal;
- the area has both dirty and clean service areas;
- waste management has access to this less utilized walk through area to plan for waste removal; and
- mobile point-of-care laboratory facilities can and will be housed right in the area.

How does this affect me?

Though SPH is the preferred site for adult EVD patients, a patient with EVD symptoms could present at any hospital or health-care facility. **While there has never been a case of Ebola in Canada and the risk of Ebola in Canada is very low, all health-care professionals should be prepared to [evaluate any patients](#)** with fever by first asking if they have travelled from an EVD-affected area. EVD does not spread easily from person to person; it's spread through direct contact with infected bodily fluids, not through casual contact.

As a reminder, a simulation session to test our recently developed EVD operational and communications plans is scheduled for October 23rd in the Emergency Department at St. Paul's Hospital. This session will include a demonstration of the proper donning and doffing of PPE and will inform the development of PPE training sessions that will take place across the Region.

This information has been recently shared with St. Paul's Hospital employees and physicians. You can expect to continue receiving updates on the EVD planning effort. Feel free to contact Deputy Medical Health Officer Dr. Johnmark Opondo at 306-655-4338 or Director of Enterprise Risk Management Lori Frank at 306-655-7795 with any questions or concerns.

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