

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Risk Assessment and Personal Protective Equipment

Transmission of Ebola virus occurs when non-intact skin or mucous membranes have direct or indirect contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person. Appropriate infection control measures like proper use and removal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), environmental cleaning (approved hospital grade disinfectant such as broad spectrum virucide product or proven efficacy against Adenovirus type 5, Bovine Parvovirus, Canine Parvovirus and Poliovirus types 1) and waste management and are essential for safe practice. **There is no risk of transmission during the incubation period (i.e. when no symptoms are present).**

Symptoms of EVD include: acute fever (> 38°C), 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 of the body. **Low risk symptoms** include acute fever (>38°C), headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness and abdominal pain. **High risk symptoms** include: bleeding, diarrhea or vomiting.

Trained observers are required to monitor PPE donning and doffing steps when patient symptoms and/or care activities are determined to be a potential High Risk. The decision to upgrade to a higher level of protection is based on your assessment of risk in each situation. Conduct the following **risk assessment** to assess the PPE you require:

Risk of EVD	PPE Required		
	Routine practices as for all patients	Nitrile Gloves Fluid resistant Mask Level 4 fluid resistant gown with knitted cuffs or thumb loops Full face shield	Increase PPE to: N95 Respirator, Fluid resistant head cover, Double gloves, impervious boot covers
Patient is being monitored by Public Health for potential EVD symptoms, but has no symptoms (no symptoms = no risk)	YES	NO	NO
In the past 21 days patient: (1) has been in a country with widespread transmission of EVD OR cared for, come into contact with body fluids, or handled clinical specimens from an individual known or strongly suspected to have Ebola; and (2) has LOW risk symptoms	YES	YES	NO
In the past 21 days patient: (1) has been in a country with widespread transmission of EVD OR cared for, come into contact with body fluids, or handled clinical specimens from an individual known or strongly suspected to have Ebola; and (2) has HIGH risk symptoms OR requires a high risk procedure (cardiopulmonary resuscitation, central line insertion, procedures that result in copious amounts of body fluid contamination) or aerosol generating medical procedures (including intubation and related procedures, open respiratory /airway suctioning, high- frequency oscillatory ventilation, nebulized therapy, non-invasive positive pressure ventilation)	YES	YES	YES

Please note this risk assessment and the following instructions on how to properly use PPE are recommendations from the Government of Saskatchewan. Individuals transporting EVD patients to and from acute care centers require different procedures and different PPE.