



Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Planning and Preparedness Update: Dec. 10, 2014

www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola

Status of Saskatoon Health Region's EVD Plan:

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) planning team continues to prepare for the rare possibility of treating an EVD patient:

- Simulations to test EMS and patient flow processes have been postponed due to overcapacity issues.
- The former Progressive Care Unit (PCU) at St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) remains the preferred site for admitting and caring for EVD patients. Until the unit is required for treatment of an EVD patient, the former PCU may be used to assist with overcapacity issues.
- PPE training continues. To date, 244 employees have undergone training.
- An EVD information and planning kit has been distributed to community physician offices.

Next Steps:

- The Region will continue to work with external agencies and organizations on overlapping areas of planning.
- EVD simulations will be rescheduled.
- Employee recruitment and training of the Region's EVD response team will continue. Employees or physicians interested in being part of the Region's EVD response team should contact Lisa.Williams@saskatoonhealthregion.ca.
- An information session on the EVD crisis in Liberia will take place Dec. 15, noon to 1 p.m., Plypchuk Hall, St. Paul's Hospital. Epidemiologist Dr. Bruce Reeder, who has recently returned from working with EVD patients in Liberia, will share his experience during this Lunch and Learn. The event is available for Telehealth broadcast to Humboldt, Rosthern, Wadena, Watrous, and Wynyard; please RSVP by Dec. 11 to 306-655-1573 or telehealth@saskatoonhealthregion.ca to participate in this Telehealth Lunch and Learn.

Things to Remember:

- EVD does not spread easily from person to person. It is spread from contact with bodily fluids of a person who is sick with, or has died from the disease, or from exposure to contaminated objects, such as needles.
- There NEVER been a case of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in Canada. The introduction of EVD into Canada is possible but not likely and the risk to Canadians remains very low. Nevertheless, we want to be prepared.
- At Saskatoon Health Region EVD planning and preparedness is led by Deputy Medical Health Officer Dr. Johnmark Opondo and Director of Enterprise Risk Management Lori Frank. Planning efforts are focused on the most likely scenarios: (1) an ill traveler with signs and symptoms of EVD is first identified at Saskatoon Airport or enroute and (2) an individual returns from an affected country and presents at a health-care setting in Saskatoon Health Region with signs and symptoms of EVD.
- If a patient presents with fever, follow the established protocol:
 - Ask if they have travelled out of country within the past 21 days, especially Africa.
 - Remain calm and properly isolate the patient if they have travelled to EVD infected countries.
 - Properly don your personal protective equipment.
 - Call the Infectious Disease specialist at 306-655-1000 and the Medical Health Officer at 306-655-4620.
- The central source of EVD information and tools is at www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola.

Key Messages for Sharing

- Saskatoon Health Region is ready to admit, treat and care for an EVD patient.
- EVD planning and preparedness is about improving infection control practices and procedures in the delivery of health care.

Questions? Contact the EVD planning Co-Leads:

- Contact Dr. Johnmark Opondo, Deputy Medical Health Officer and 306-655-4338 or Lori Frank, Director of Enterprise Risk Management, 306-655-7795