



Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Planning and Preparedness Update: Dec. 17, 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 are postponed until the new year.
- 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.
- The region-wide operational and communications protocol manual is in progress. Departments continue to revise protocols as the work moves forward.
- Staff recruitment for the EVD response team continues in Adult Critical Care, PICU and Labor & Delivery.
- During a Dec. 15 lunch and learn event, Dr. Bruce Reeder shared his personal experience in recently treating EVD patients in Liberia.

Next Steps:

- 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.
- Costs related to EVD planning, training and operations will be gathered and reported.
- EVD updates will resume in the new year.

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 a major investment in proper infection control practices. This investment has long-term returns if we continue with improved processes and incorporate EVD learnings and training in our daily work.

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