



Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Planning and Preparedness Update: Jan. 21, 2015

www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola

Status of Saskatoon Health Region's EVD Plan:

- The EVD situation worldwide is beginning to stabilize, with some West African countries reporting the lowest number of new EVD cases to date and other West African countries declared EVD free.
- 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, this unit, now known as 2A Flex Unit #2, may be used to assist with overcapacity issues.
- As a variation on the response team concept, individuals (physicians intensivists, medical lab technologists, ICU nurses, ER personnel and housekeeping managers) have been specifically trained to respond to a potential EVD case and care for an EVD patient.
- Approximately 300 employees and physician have been trained in the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- The first draft of [Saskatoon Health Region's EVD Planning and Preparedness Manual](#), our Region's operational and communications protocol, is now online. Detailed appendixes will be added to the manual in the coming days.

Next Steps:

- A second presentation by Dr. Bruce Reeder outlining his recent front line experience with EVD in West Africa is takes place January 26. Everyone is welcome to attend. [Click for event details](#).
- Simulation sessions to test the Region's Planning and Preparedness Manual are scheduled for January and will focus on waste management, EMS and rural response.
- PPE inventory will be monitored monthly to ensure our Region is prepared to respond to an EVD case.
- **EVD planning will conclude in February and the planning team will then focus efforts on preparing for a number of other Level 4 pathogens.**

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.
- 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

- 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, **Saskatoon Health Region is ready to admit, treat and care for an EVD patient.** For more information about Region plans visit www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola.

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