



# Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Planning and Preparedness Update: Nov. 12, 2014

[www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola](http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola)

## National News:

- Under new Canadian public health measures individuals who have been to Guinea, Sierra Leone or Liberia in the last 21 must report to a local public health authority and self-monitor up to 21 days. [Read more.](#)

## Status of Saskatoon Health Region's EVD Plan:

The EVD planning team continues to prepare for the rare possibility of treating an EVD patient:

- Based on new scientific evidence and a revised risk assessment, Saskatchewan has updated personal protective equipment protocols (PPE) protocols. The [risk assessment and protocols](#) are on Saskatoon Health Region's EVD website ([www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola](http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola)). These protocols supplement the in person PPE training taking place throughout the Region.
- The region-wide operational and communications protocol manual is collated as standard work within departments is developed and submitted. This will become the overall Region plan for EVD management. It is expected this document will continue to evolve as planning, training and simulation progresses.
- PPE training sessions are well underway and the training plan is revised each Friday.

## Next Steps:

- The Level IV Pathogen Planning Executive is working on development of an EVD toolkit for departments/ programs where patients/clients present directly and do not report to registration or emergency (eg. Eye Center, Ambulatory Care Clinic, Mental Health Programs). This tool kit will align with Population and Public Health toolkit under development for community physician offices. Each toolkit will contain EVD reference information and an instructional video on how to appropriately don/doff PPE.
- We are targeting the physical space at SPH to be ready by Nov. 15.
- We are planning a rural EVD simulation session. Keep posted for more information.
- Discussions continue with Maternal Services and Pediatric Services regarding the location for treatment of maternal and pediatric EVD patients.
- A PPE "train the trainer" model will be examined to assist with increasing the numbers of employees who have successfully completed the PPE training.
- Discussions are underway regarding a dedicated Region EVD response team.

## Key Messages for Sharing:

- EVD does not spread easily from person to person. It is spread from touching 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.
  - [Properly don your personal protective equipment.](#)
  - Call the Infectious Disease specialist at 306-655-1000 and the Medical Health Officer at 306-655-4620.
- EVD information, tools and resources can be found at [www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola](http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola).

## Further Information:

- Region planning team terms of reference: [lead/executive team](#) and [operations team](#)

## 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