



# Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Planning and Preparedness Update: Nov. 26, 2014

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

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

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

- Staff training continues and educational resources continue to increase. To date 204 staff have been trained in the priority areas of emergency and critical care.
- The physical space for treatment of EVD patients at St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) continues to be prepared by making continuous quality improvements to patient flow, signage and other visual cues.
- We continue to urge staff interested in being part of the Region's EVD response team to contact [Lisa.Williams@saskatoonhealthregion](mailto:Lisa.Williams@saskatoonhealthregion)
- The EVD toolkit for departments/programs where patients/clients present directly (i.e. not to registration or emergency) was distributed November 20. The kits contain information to support staff and patients.
- A meeting was held with community stakeholders representing local funeral homes to identify and address EVD-related questions or issues.
- The Region-wide operational and communications protocol manual is progressing and departments continue revising protocols as required. Maternal Services has completed and submitted a protocol.
- The biosafety officer from VIDO lab visited the SPH PCU on November 20 and participated in a walkthrough of the inpatient area. This was helpful to address issues surrounding logistics and flow.

## Next Steps:

- We will work to complete outstanding operational details in the inpatient area, including mapping the patient's journey, unit/staff communication, waste disposal route, and signage.
- Recruitment of staff to the EVD response team will continue.
- We will move forward with the "train the trainer" model and continue increasing the number of staff who have successfully completed the personal protective equipment (PPE) training.
- An operational plan is under development for Pediatric Services

## Key Messages for Sharing:

Standing messages:

- 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.
  - [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).

## 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