



# Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

Planning and Preparedness Update: Nov. 5, 2014

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

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a rare and serious viral infection. Initial symptoms appear similar to malaria or influenza and typically include fever, severe headache, muscle pain, and weakness. Countries in Africa are experiencing an outbreak of EVD. To date, six EVD cases have been confirmed in the United States. There is no EVD in Canada.

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

Under the direction of VP Finance and Corporate Services Nilesh Kavia and Chief Medical Health Officer Cory Neudorf, the planning team, led by Deputy Medical Health Officer Dr. Johnmark Opondo, Public Health and Director of Enterprise Risk Management Lori Frank (Emergency Preparedness Planning) has:

- focused on operational and communications protocols for high risk areas such as emergency departments and developed protocols for housekeeping, waste management, registration, DI, lab and EMS
- created personal protective equipment protocols (PPE) and established an inventory of PPE
- established plans for the isolation and containment of adult EVD patients at St. Paul's Hospital
- held a simulation and PPE training session at St. Paul's Hospital on Oct. 2; PPE training commenced for priority departments on Oct. 27
- communicated EVD information through: direct email to physicians and employees, posters, [a new website](#) for health-care providers (which can be accessed by physicians and employees at any time, in any location and through any mobile device) and a new planning update at each Leaders Staying Connected meeting
- confirmed that health-care providers who need assistance with translation when dealing with a patient who does not speak English, can call MCIS Language Services at 888-890-9014 (phone service) or HealthLine at 811

## Next Steps:

- Readyng the physical space at SPH will be a priority.
- A Region-wide operational and communications protocol manual is in the later stages of development.
- Learnings from the Oct. 23 simulation and training session will be incorporated in the next phases planning.
- Discussion are underway with Maternal Services and Pediatric Services regarding the location for treatment of maternal and pediatric EVD patients.
- Based on new scientific evidence, Saskatoon Health Region will be moving to a higher level of PPE protocols for EVD. Watch [www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola](http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/ebola) for more information.

## 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.
- Extensive planning efforts are underway regionally, provincially and nationally to ensure a coordinated response to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). 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
- 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 Dr. Johnmark Opondo, Deputy Medical Health Officer, 306-655-4338 or Lori Frank, Director of Enterprise Risk Management, 306-655-7795