

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Screening and Management

Risk of Importation of Ebola Virus

Although there have been several previous outbreaks of Ebola, exportation of the virus from an outbreak to a non-epidemic country has historically been an exceptionally rare event, and has never occurred in Canada. But it must be recognized that no previous outbreak has been as widespread and resistant to management/control as the current one.

How Ebola Virus is Spread

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is only spread through direct contact with body fluids of someone who is sick with the virus or by handling the bodies of dead animals or humans who have been infected. Therefore, UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS are to be maintained when handling ill or deceased persons. Of course there are other diseases that can also be spread through bodily fluids which underscores the need to practice universal precautions when handling ANY bodily fluid (blood, urine, feces, drainage, sputum, etc).

Countries/Areas Affected by Ebola

At this time, the countries affected by EVD are Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria. If there are students and/or staff arriving from or traveling to these countries, extra caution is warranted to prevent the spread of infection.

Screening of Persons From Affected Countries/Areas

General screening should be done for all travelers arriving from an area where EVD is occurring at points of entry (e.g. airports or ports upon boarding, in arrival areas, or at ground crossing points). At this point persons should be provided with information on the potential risk of Ebola virus disease and information on how to minimize the risk of becoming infected or of preventing the spread of infection. It is recommended that another screening and information session should be provided at the College Health Centre upon arrival on campus.

If a person suspects that they have been exposed to Ebola virus in one of the affected areas and they develop infectious disease symptoms (fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache, nausea, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, or bleeding) within three weeks after leaving one of the affected countries, they should seek rapid medical attention and highlight their recent travel and/or possible exposures to the nurse and attending physician. Such persons should be isolated to prevent further transmission.

Recommendations for Health Care Workers

There is a risk for health-care workers and volunteers, especially if involved in caring for EVD patients. However, if the recommended level of precaution is properly implemented in the health care settings, transmission of the disease should be prevented. The risk level can be considered very low to low unless the precautions are not followed, e.g. inadequate personal protective equipment and practices, needle stick injury, etc.

Health-care providers managing symptomatic persons need to question them on travel history and consider the possibility of EVD in a person returning from affected areas. If the risk of exposure is considered very low, the person should be reassured, asked to monitor his/her temperature and symptoms for 21 days, and seek immediate care if they develop symptoms. Other pathologies (e.g. malaria) should be investigated and the patient should be monitored regularly. Admission to the hospital in these observation phases is not necessary.

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This tool can be used by College Health Services to help identify patients who may be at risk for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and to outline action to be taken if a risk exists.

ASSESSMENT

1. TRAVEL HISTORY

In the past 21 days, have you been or have had close personal contact with someone who has been to any of the following countries/areas?

- *Guinea
- *Sierra Leone
- *Liberia
- *Nigeria (Lagos or Port Harcourt)
- *Democratic Republic of the Congo (Equateur Province)

YES _____ NO _____

2. FEVER OR OTHER SYMPTOMS

Are you feeling unwell with any of the following symptoms: YES NO

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| *Fever of 38C (or 101F) or greater (check temp) | _____ | _____ |
| *Feeling feverish | _____ | _____ |
| *Severe headache | _____ | _____ |
| *Muscle pain | _____ | _____ |
| *Diarrhea | _____ | _____ |
| *Vomiting | _____ | _____ |
| *Sore throat | _____ | _____ |
| *Stomach pain | _____ | _____ |
| *Coughing | _____ | _____ |

3. HIGH SUSPICION SIGNS

Does the patient have any of the following: YES NO

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| *Bleeding or red eyes | _____ | _____ |
| *Bleeding from mouth | _____ | _____ |
| *Any other signs of bleeding | _____ | _____ |

4. ACTION LEVEL I

- 1) Patients who do not have any symptoms CANNOT transmit EVD. If they have no signs or symptoms but answer "Yes" to Question #1, recommend self-monitoring
- 2) If patient has one or more symptoms and answers "Yes" to Question #1, discuss with NP or Medical Director
- 3) **If patient has symptoms and ANY sign, continue on to ACTION LEVEL II.**

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5. ACTION LEVEL II

- 1) **Use full personal protective equipment (PPE) including a mask with a full face shield (does NOT have to be N95), gloves, and a fluid resistant gown. Head and foot covering may also be indicated if there is significant bleeding, vomiting, or diarrhea.**
- 2) Isolate the patient from any further contact with persons now wearing full PPE. If the patient is coughing, provide him/her with a surgical mask to wear.
- 3) Call 9-1-1 for Paramedic - advise that the patient has a travel history to an affected area and has symptoms and/or signs of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)
- 4) Oxygen can be administered by nasal cannula under the mask if ordered. However, do not administer any nebulized or aerosol treatments.
- 5) Transfer patient to the ambulance as soon as possible. Wrap patient in cloth or paper linens to avoid environmental contamination.
- 6) After the transfer, immediately clean any surface or equipment that has come into contact with the patient or the patient's bodily fluids with an approved hospital grade cleaner/disinfectant.
- 7) Linens or paper gowns and other PPE must be placed in biohazard bags for safe laundering or incineration after use.
- 8) Wash hands thoroughly after clean-up.

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Self-Monitoring Checklist for Persons who have been in countries affected by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) or have been in close personal contact with someone who has recently (in past 21 days) travelled to any of the affected areas.

For 21 days after leaving an affected area or having contact with someone who may have been infected with Ebola virus, monitor for the following:

Symptoms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
* Fever/feeling feverish																					
Severe Headache																					
Muscle Aches																					
Stomach Pain																					
Diarrhea																					
Vomiting																					
Sore throat																					
Coughing																					
Bleeding – anywhere																					

*Fever – Check temperature twice daily for fever (over 38C or 101F)

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

If you have any signs or symptoms or are feeling ill, call ahead to the appropriate health care provider (telephone numbers listed below) and tell them about your travel or contact history and symptoms. You will be directed as to where to go and what to do to get the appropriate medical care and prevent the spread of infection.

Mon - Fri 8:30 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:30

St. Clair College Health Centre - Windsor Main Campus

519-972-2380

St. Clair College Health Centre - Chatham Thames Campus

519-354-9100 Ext. 3800

Sun - Sat 24 hours a day

Windsor Regional Hospital - Ouellette Campus Emergency

519-973-4400

Chatham General Hospital (ask for Charge Nurse - ext. 6050)

519-352-6400