

January 5, 2015

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-in Clinics, Hospitals – Emergency, Infection Control, Occupational Health; EMS, Dental Offices, Community Laboratories

RE: UPDATE #3: PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS AND EBOLA

The Interim Chief Medical Officer of Health recently released **Directive #3 – Precautions and Procedure for Primary Care Settings** which provides guidance to primary care providers in ambulatory care settings, such as walk-in clinics and nurse practitioner offices. The guidance in this directive can also be adapted and implemented for primary care providers not working in ambulatory care settings such as dental offices, midwifery practice groups and others. This Directive provides information on **precautions**, staff education/training and procedures necessary to **protect the health of patients and workers and reduce the risk of spreading Ebola Virus Diseases (EVD)**.

EVD infection occurs from **direct contact** with the blood or body fluids (e.g. sweat, urine, saliva, feces, vomit, tears, breast milk and semen) of infected people who are symptomatic, and **indirectly** through contact with surfaces contaminated with blood and/or body fluids. Travellers from affected countries are now being screened upon arrival in Canada. If symptomatic, they are immediately isolated and sent to a designated hospital. If asymptomatic, they are referred to their local health unit for surveillance for a 21-day period (the incubation period of EVD). If symptoms become apparent during this time, the traveller is advised to notify the public health unit immediately and arrangements for transportation to a designated hospital will be made. Travellers are strongly advised not to present at a primary care setting.

Health care providers in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (HKPR) region are required to immediately report all suspect and confirmed EVD cases to the HKPR District Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577 (8:30am – 4:30pm), or after hours at 1-885-255-7839.

Please refer to the following references and resources:

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care website, **Ebola Virus Disease** (includes passive screening signage):
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola>

Direct link to **Ebola Virus Disease Directive #3 – Precautions and Procedures for Primary Care Settings – December 9, 2014**:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola/docs/evd_directive_3_20141209.pdf

Direct link to **Ebola Virus Disease Screening Tool for Primary Care Settings**:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola/docs/screening_tool_20141209.pdf

If you have questions, please call the Health Unit and ask to speak with a nurse in the Communicable Disease Control Department.

Haliburton
705-457-1391

Lindsay
705-324-3569

Port Hope
905-885-9100

After Hours
1-888-255-7839