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Ebola Update

Attention: Physicians, Hospitals, CNE, ER Manager, ER Physician, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Professionals, Community Health Centres, Walk-In Urgent Care Clinic, Nurse Practitioner, Ontario Health, Ontario Health Teams, Midwives, Family Health Team, Indigenous Healthcare & Community, Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Neighbouring Health Units, Paramedic Services, Corrections

Date: June 8, 2026

On May 17, 2026, the World Health Organization issued a statement declaring the Ebola disease outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, a public health emergency of international concern. **In response, enhanced public health measures have been implemented for travelers from affected areas, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan.** At this time, the risk in Ontario remains low; however, health care providers should continue to assess epidemiologic risk in patients with clinically compatible signs and symptoms and relevant travel history.

We would like to remind health care providers of the importance of assessing exposure risk in all patients with clinically compatible signs and symptoms. Public Health Ontario's (PHO) new [VHF Clinical Risk Assessment tool](#) should be used. Consider using the map (page 11) to improve accuracy of the travel history assessment by having patients identify exact locations visited.

Ebola is primarily transmitted through direct contact with blood or body fluids (such as saliva, vomit, urine, semen or feces) of an infected person. They can also spread through contact with contaminated objects (like medical equipment), and exposure to infected animals.

PHAC Temporary Border Measures

- From May 30, 2026, to August 29, 2026 The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has implemented the following [temporary border measures](#):
 - Travelers, who in the previous 21 days, have been in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda or South Sudan, will be assessed upon arrival in Canada and will be required to comply with federal and local public health measures, including federal mandatory quarantine.

PHO Clinical Risk Assessment Tool

View all current Public Health Alerts by visiting the Health Professional Resources page at: <http://www.smdhu.org/PHA>

Receive urgent public health updates by email (such as Public Health Alert) by subscribing at: www.smdhu.org/PHAlert

- PHO has developed the [VHF Clinical Risk Assessment Tool](#) to support conducting a thorough history for VHF risk assessment, including an appropriate review of the patient's symptoms, travel history, and potential exposures.
- REMINDER: Do not collect specimens for a microbiological examination before consulting with a PHO Laboratory Microbiologist. PHO Laboratory Customer Service Centre can be reached at 416-235-6556/1-877-604-4567, and after-hours 416-605-3113.

Updated PHO Resources:

- PHO [Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers](#)
- PHO's [VHF Test Information Sheet](#) (May 2026)
- PHO's [Infection Prevention and Control Management of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever in Acute Care](#) (2nd edition, June 2026)

More Information:

- SMDHU [Ebola for Health Care Professionals](#)
- MOH [Notification Pathway for Special Pathogens](#)
- PHAC [Ebola virus disease: For health professionals and humanitarian aid workers](#)
- WHO [Ebola Disease](#)

Report all suspect and confirmed cases of VHF (including Ebola) to SMDHU immediately at 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8809 during work hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday). After hours, please call: 1-888-225-7851.