

Ontario Ebola Virus Directive for Primary Care Providers Specific precautions, procedures and screening outlined

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Professionals, NSM LHIN, Central LHIN, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services, Medavie EMS Ontario – Muskoka, Rama Mnjikaning EMS, Midwives, Pharmacies, Dental Offices

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The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has been enhancing its emergency preparedness and response to the Ebola virus disease (EVD) by taking measures to ensure that the province's health sector is prepared should a traveler return from a country where EVD is currently circulating and the traveler is suspected of having the disease.

The Ministry has released a directive which provides specific precautions, procedures and screening to be followed by primary care providers in ambulatory care settings (physicians and nurse practitioners offices and walk-in clinics) that deliver primary care to patients that present with acute illnesses. The guidance in this directive can be implemented in principle for primary care providers not working in ambulatory care settings such as pharmacies, midwifery practice groups, dental offices and other non-ambulatory care settings; however, the directive is not mandatory in these settings at this time. It is expected that all organizations subject to these directives will take immediate steps to review and begin implementing these measures.

Chief Medical Officer of Health Directive for Primary Care Settings:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola/docs/evd_directive_3_20141209.pdf

Screening Tool for Primary Care Settings:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola/docs/screening_tool_20141209.pdf

The directive includes:

- Specific education and training
- Screening (telephone, passive and reception desk screening)
- Placement and care of a patient with travel history and symptoms compatible with EVD
- Cleaning, disinfection and waste management

Currently, under the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) Quarantine Services Program, returning travelers from affected countries and areas in West Africa are being referred to their local public health unit. This public health monitoring process should minimize the number of travelers that present with EVD symptoms at primary care settings.

Health sector employers and health care workers can continue to contact the Ministry's Health Care Provider Hotline by email at emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca or phone at 1-866-212-2272 about EVD. Please continue to check the Ministry website at www.ontario.ca/ebola for updated information.

If you suspect a case of Ebola or have questions regarding proper specimen collection, contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Communicable Disease Team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 Ext. 8809