

**Community Pharmacist Advisory: Ebola Virus Disease**

October 8, 2014

**This advisory is for Community Pharmacists** and contains critical information.

**Please read carefully.**

**Context:**

The Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak continues to evolve in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Nigeria (Lagos), with continuing community and health-facility transmission of infection. As of October 08, 2014, the cumulative number of cases attributed to EVD in the four countries is over 8033, with more than 3879 deaths. (<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/situation-reports/en/>)

The virus is transmitted to humans from contact with infected wild animals (direct contact with fruit bats, non-human primates and rodents), and from human to human through direct contact (through non-intact skin or mucous membranes) with blood, other body fluids and tissues of infected persons, and indirect contact with environmental items contaminated with such fluids. In health care settings, transmission occurs as a result of close contact with infected patients without appropriate infection control precautions in place. The incubation period ranges from 2 – 21 days, and the period of communicability extends from symptom onset to symptom resolution.

**Direction:**

The risk of EVD coming to Canada is considered very low. However, please maintain a high index of suspicion for individuals a fever greater than or equal to 38.6C **and** who have had residence in or travel to Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, or other EVD-affected areas within the past 21 days.

**Fever or Illness in a Traveler returning from an EVD-affected area\*:**

Should a patient meet the above **and requires immediate emergency treatment:**

- **call 911**
- inform EMS Dispatch that the patient has within the last 21 days been to Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria or other EVD-affected areas (+/or those recently added by the World Health Organization\*).

Should a patient meet the above criteria and **does not require immediate emergency treatment** the following steps should be taken:

- **Immediately notify the Zone Medical Officer of Health (MOH) at:**

**North Zone during regular business hours (1-855-513-7530)**  
**North Zone after hours and on weekends (1-800-732-8981)**  
**Edmonton Zone (780-433-3940 )**  
**Central Zone (403-356-6430)**  
**Calgary Zone (403-264-5615 )**  
**South Zone (403-388-6111)**

- Environmental cleaning should be carried out under the direction of the local zone MOH

This CD Advisory has been posted on the AHS-MOH webpage [www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp)

**Additional References:**

World Health Organization: EVD [www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/)

Public Health Agency of Canada

- Ebola Virus Disease: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/vhf-fvh/ebola-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/vhf-fvh/ebola-eng.php)
- Travel Advisory: [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/notices-avis/notices-avis-eng.php?id=125](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/notices-avis/notices-avis-eng.php?id=125)

Centers for Disease Control: [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html)

Alberta Health Services: [www.albertahealthservices.ca/ebola](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/ebola), [www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp)