

Communicable Disease Advisory: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) - Update

From the office of the Medical Officer of Health, Central Zone

Date: December 21, 2015

Context:

Effective December 15, 2015, the Public Health Agency of Canada Quarantine Office has discontinued screening for Ebola Virus Disease for individuals arriving in Canada from:

- Sierra Leone
- Liberia

This change is in response to the EVD situation in these countries – Sierra Leone was declared free of Ebola virus transmission in the human population on 7 November 2015, and is in a 90-day period of heightened surveillance. Liberia had a cluster of 3 cases in November 2015 related to a rare re-emergence of persistent virus in a survivor; all contacts have been identified, immunized and have completed a 21-day monitoring period successfully.

Public Health (PH) will no longer be notified of travelers returning from these countries as there is no longer a recognized increased risk for EVD. These travelers will not be asked to report to local PH and will not be asked to monitor their temperatures.

Screening of travelers arriving in Canada from Guinea will continue until further notice, with a requirement for them to report to the local Medical Officer of Health, and to monitor their temperatures twice daily.

Actions for clinical settings:

1. For ill individuals with a recent travel history from Sierra Leone or Liberia:
 - For routine Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) purposes, please continue to ask about recent travel, fever and any other symptoms at triage. However, EVD specific questions are not required.
 - Triage and manage as appropriate for their symptoms using routine IPC practices.
 - Fever in these individuals should be worked up as for other travelers from Africa.
 - Non-EVD laboratory testing can be done without calling the zone Medical Officer of Health.
2. For individuals with fever and a travel history from **Guinea** in the 21 days prior to symptom onset:
 - Immediately triage and have patient put on procedure (surgical) mask
 - Place patient in single room with hard walls and a door
 - Use contact and droplet precautions: suspected/confirmed Ebola Virus Disease. See IPC Rapid Assessment and Triage for Patients Presenting with Fever www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/ipc/if-hp-ipc-ebola-triage.pdf
 - Contact Medical Officer of Health on Call at 403-356-6430
 - Contact Infection Prevention and Control

Additional References:

- World Health Organization. EVD. www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html
- Alberta Health Services.
 - Ebola related resources: www.albertahealthservices.ca/ebola
 - Medical Officer of Health bulletins: www.albertahealthservices.ca/7082.asp