

Date: November 3, 2022

To: Primary care providers

From: Primary Health Care
Alberta Health Services

RE: Guidance on potential Ebola procedures for primary care providers

Dear Primary Care Providers,

As you may know, there is currently an evolving Ebola outbreak in Uganda. So, although the risk of Ebola virus disease in Alberta remains very low, AHS is offering [Ebola guidance and resources](#) for healthcare providers. The guidance is tailored to acute care providers, but its principles apply to primary care.

AHS will closely monitor the Ebola situation and will provide updated guidance and support to primary care providers as necessary. We provide this information out of an abundance of caution.

Key points:

- As of November 3, 2022, there are no Ebola cases in Canada.
- Ebola is [transmitted through close contact](#) (via blood and other bodily fluids).
- Any suspected Ebola patient interaction, whether in person or virtual, requires immediate isolation and consultation with your zone's Medical Officer of Health (MOH).

PPE

As a precautionary measure, AHS advises community clinics to continue to be prepared for infectious diseases by staying well stocked on PPE. COVID-19 PPE is adequate as long as close contact with Ebola patients is avoided. PPE can be ordered at cost from AHS using [this order form](#).

Triage and patient safety procedures

Again, the risk of encountering Ebola cases for primary care providers is very low at this time. But as a precaution, AHS offers the following guidance on triage and safety procedures:

- If you're meeting with a patient who has a fever or other symptoms of infection, unexplained bleeding/bruising, or [another Ebola symptom](#), ask if they have traveled to Uganda in the past 21 days. If they have any of those symptoms and have traveled to Uganda in the past 21 days:
 - Isolate the individual in a clinic room immediately.
 - Implement [contact and droplet precautions](#).
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- Don PPE, following proper [donning](#) and [doffing](#) procedures.
- Avoid all close contact if possible.
- Do not initiate any testing or specimen collection.
- Call the MOH on-call from your zone, or [RAAPID](#), to determine a course of action. See contact numbers below.
- If you're meeting with the patient virtually and the patient has relevant symptoms and has traveled to Uganda in the past 21 days, ask the patient to isolate in their home. Then call the MOH on-call from your zone, or call RAAPID to determine a course of action. See contact numbers below.

Resources

AHS has developed a webpage at www.ahs.ca/ebola with guidance and supports aimed at acute care, including:

- Latest updates, including where the Ebola virus is circulating
- Quick links for common resources
- Ebola resources for healthcare professionals

Questions

If you have any questions about the information above, please contact us at: PHC@AHS.ca.

Contacting the MOH

You can contact your local on-call MOH by calling the numbers in the chart below.

MOH on call contacts	
Zone	Phone Number
North Zone during office hours:	1-855-513-7530
North Zone after hours:	1-800-732-8981
Edmonton Zone:	780-433-3940
Central Zone:	403-356-6430
Calgary Zone:	403-264-5615
South Zone:	403-388-6111

Or, you can call RAAPID and ask for the MOH on-call in your zone, and RAAPID staff will connect you.

RAAPID North (for patients north of Red Deer, Alberta)

1-800-282-9911 (Canada ONLY)
780-735-0811

RAAPID South (for patients in and south of Red Deer, Alberta)

1-800-661-1700 (Canada ONLY)
403-944-4486