
Summary of Changes to the CMOH Directive for Acute Care Settings

The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) issued a Directive for Acute Care Settings to provide instructions to health care workers and employers concerning precautions and procedures related to Ebola virus disease.

A revised version of the Directive was issued on October 30, 2014. The major changes to the Directive include:

- referencing the 11 designated hospitals
- clarifying that enhanced personal protective equipment (PPE) beyond usual routine practices and additional precautions is not recommended for reception staff at outpatient clinics in hospitals
- changing the requirements for PPE by health care workers conducting triage in emergency departments when a suitable structural barrier (e.g., Plexiglass shield) is in place
- allowing for more judgement by health care workers regarding the placement of a suspect case within the hospital
- clarifying the roles of the registered nurses providing care for suspect and confirmed cases, as well as the trained observer
- instructing hospitals to limit the number of health care workers that come into contact with suspect and confirmed cases, as well as to maintain a log of each health care worker that enters the patient's room
- clarifying that for paediatric cases, a parent/caregiver may be admitted to the patient's room following informed consent and training on the use of PPE and other precautions
- providing health care workers with discretion in choosing to wear goggles in addition to the use of a full face shield
- outlining the various types of PPE that could constitute full body barrier protection for health care workers at risk of exposure to a suspect or confirmed case
- providing health care workers with discretion in selecting a powered air-purifying respirator or fit-tested N95 respirator when conducting an aerosol-generating procedure on a suspect or confirmed case
- eliminating guidance for emergency medical services from the Directive (this information will be included in a separate CMOH Directive)
- clarifying that health care workers with protected exposure to a confirmed case (e.g., wore recommended PPE at all times) in Ontario should be closely monitored

Health care workers and health sector employers may contact the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Health Care Provider Hotline by phone at 1-866-212-2272 or by email at emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca with any questions or concerns about Ontario's health system readiness for EVD.