

## Ebola Virus Directive 1 (Acute Care Settings) Revised

The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) has circulated a revised version of Directive #1 for Acute Care Settings concerning precautions and procedures for Ebola virus disease (EVD). This version replaces Directive #1 issued on October 17, 2014. There is also a fact sheet that summarizes the significant changes to the Directive. These documents are available on the OMA website:

<https://www.oma.org/mediaroom/Pages/PublicHealthUpdates.aspx>

Major changes to the Directive include:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

The revised Directive makes reference to a decision-making tool for the selection of personal protective equipment for health care workers conducting screening/triage in emergency departments (ED). The tool will be available **shortly** on the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Ebola virus disease website at [www.ontario.ca/ebola](http://www.ontario.ca/ebola). Also, the Ministry is finalizing the other priority Directives on Emergency Medical Services, Primary Care and Training, and these will be issued as soon as possible.

The OMA is monitoring this issue and will communicate relevant updates and information to members on a continuing basis.