

Memo to Hospital Partners on Ebola Virus

May 27, 2026

On May 15, 2026, an Ebola outbreak was declared in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, and on May 16, 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General declared it as a public health emergency of international concern. As of May 25, 2026, the WHO reported over 900 suspected cases and 220 suspected deaths in the DRC and Uganda. **Ontario has never had a case of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) and the risk to York Region remains very low.**

The Public Health Agency of Canada also released updated [guidance](#) on returning travellers from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South Sudan.

Immediate Notification Required

If you suspect that a patient may have VHF follow the [Ministry of Health's Notification Pathway for Special Pathogens](#) which guides you to:

- Immediately implement Public Health Ontario's (PHO) [recommended IPAC measures](#) including the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Inform your hospital's IPAC team and your hospital's on call Infectious Diseases physician **immediately** for clinical assessment
- Notify [York Region Public Health](#) **immediately** before drawing blood or initiating testing. We can help you with the risk assessment and determine the need to call the Ministry of Health's Health System Emergency Management Branch through the 24/7 Health Care Provider Hotline: **1-866-212-2772**
- If the patient is clinically unstable and your ID physician determines the risk of VHF exposure is high, please call the Ministry of Health's Health System Emergency Management Branch AND notify York Region Public Health simultaneously.

How to Report to York Region Public Health

- During regular business hours (Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.):
 - Call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588, or
 - Outside of regular business hours (including statutory holidays), call 905-953-6478 and send an email idcdon-callstaff@york.ca and idcdon-callmanager@york.ca for urgent reports
 - To protect privacy, please avoid sharing Personal Health Information (PHI) by email
- For general inquiries, email CIDIntakeLine@york.ca

Clinical and Testing Resources

PUBLIC HEALTH

york.ca/healthprofessionals



- PHO's [VHF Clinical Risk Assessment Tool](#) can be used to support in conducting a VHF risk assessment including an appropriate review of the patient's symptoms, travel history, and potential exposures to a VHF
- PHO's Laboratory Guidance: [Diagnostic Testing for Viruses That Cause Hemorrhagic Fevers](#)
- PHO's [VHF Test Information Sheet](#)
- PHO's [Infection Prevention and Control Management of Viral Hemorrhagic Fever in Acute Care](#)

Ebola Virus: Clinical Background

- The Ebola virus is among a group of viruses that cause VHFs. VHFs are life-threatening and common symptoms include fever, severe headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea
- VHFs are primarily transmitted through direct contact with infected blood or body fluids (such as saliva, vomit, urine, or feces). They can also spread through contact with contaminated objects (like medical equipment), exposure to infected animals (such as rodents or primates), or through bites from infected insects (such as ticks or mosquitoes)
- At this time, VHF may be suspected in patients presenting with signs and symptoms consistent with VHF who have had travel to areas affected by the outbreak and/or known or possible exposure(s) to patients with Ebola virus in the last 21 days.

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