

SUBJECT: Ebola Outbreak – situational awareness
Date: June 2, 2026
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To: Primary Care, Hospitals, Emergency Departments
From: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health is monitoring a growing outbreak of Ebola disease in East Africa caused by Bundibugyo virus. As of May 31, over 500 cases and 43 confirmed deaths have been identified in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, with concern for potential further spread in the region. International spread outside of the affected region has been limited and there are no cases in Ontario or Canada.

WDG Public Health is actively monitoring the situation. Based on current evidence, the risk to the community remains low.

Clinical Information

Ebola disease is a viral hemorrhagic fever caused by viruses in the genus *Orthoebolavirus*. Bundibugyo virus is one of several Ebola viruses known to cause severe disease in humans. Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with the blood, body fluids, tissues, or contaminated objects of a person who is symptomatic or has died from the illness. Individuals are not considered infectious before symptom onset.

The incubation period is generally two to 21 days. Early illness is non-specific and may include fever, fatigue, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain or diarrhea. Severe illness may progress to rash, impaired kidney or liver function, internal or external bleeding, shock, multi-organ failure and death. In two previous outbreaks, Bundibugyo virus was associated with mortality rates of 25 percent and 50 percent.

Ontario/Canada Context

Ontario's Ministry of Health maintains a set of emergency plans for special pathogens, including those that cause viral hemorrhagic fevers. This includes a dedicated notification and escalation pathway, as well as a list of designated sites at which Ebola cases can receive appropriate testing or care. Public Health Ontario also maintains resources related to risk assessment, testing, IPAC and public health management.

As of May 30, individuals entering Canada who have been in the DRC, Uganda or South Sudan in the past 21 days are subject to federal quarantine requirements. Upon arrival, these individuals are risk-assessed by federal officials and referred for any additional monitoring or assessment as indicated.

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Upon learning of anyone who may be quarantining in the WDG region, WDG Public Health will follow up to complete a local risk assessment and provide ongoing monitoring. There are presently no individuals quarantining in the WDG region.

Management

It is unlikely that an individual with Ebola disease would present unexpectedly to the hospital or primary care. In the event that a quarantining individual requires clinical assessment, WDG Public Health would make arrangements with the hospital and EMS in advance to ensure that appropriate precautions are in place. Individuals who are believed to have Ebola disease will be transported to a provincially designated hospital outside of WDG wherever possible.

If any patient presents who is suspected of having Ebola disease:

1. Immediately place the patient in a single room or airborne-isolation room with the door closed. Implement appropriate IPAC precautions including *at minimum* droplet/contact precautions with a fluid-resistant medical mask, full-face shield, fluid-resistant gown, and gloves with extended cuffs. Additional precautions are recommended if the patient is clinically unstable. [Refer to PHO's guidance for additional details.](#)
2. Immediately contact WDG Public Health:

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	1-800-265-7293, ext. 4752
After hours and holidays	1-877-884-8653
3. Based on the outcome of a detailed risk assessment, WDG Public Health will facilitate coordination with provincial partners.

For more information, please contact:

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