

## MEMO

**Date:** November 4, 2022

**To:** All Medical Staff

**From:** Dr. Perry Gray, Chief Medical Officer, Shared Health  
Dr. John Embil, Medical Director, Infection Prevention & Control

**Re:** **Level 4 Pathogen Physician On Call**

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With recent reports of the resurgence of Ebola virus disease in Uganda, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Infectious agents are classified based upon the biohazard safety precautions in the clinical microbiology laboratory required for the safe handling of the specific agent.

The most hazardous pathogens are classified as “Biohazard Safety Level 4.” These include viral hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola, Marburg, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Bolivian Hemorrhagic Fever, and Lassa Fever viruses. Locally we refer to these as “Level 4 pathogens”.

Effective Monday, November 7, 2022, a physician will be available for advice and to approve testing as it relates to patients with suspected Ebola virus disease and/or any other Level 4 pathogens. This physician will also be responsible for the notification of appropriate healthcare personnel and the coordination of care delivery as necessary. **This physician can be reached through the Health Sciences Centre switch board (204-787-2071), by asking for the Level 4 Pathogen ID (LIV-ID) Physician on call.**

Any medical staff with a patient they believe has had exposure to, or infection with, Ebola virus or another Level 4 pathogen that requires testing should contact the LIV-ID physician on call to discuss the necessary courses of action. Please also refer to the appropriate Ebola Virus Operational Directive for guidance on appropriate management by setting:

In Winnipeg, refer to:

- [Operational Directive: IP&C Management of EVD in Designated In-Patient Areas](#)
- [Non-Designated ER/UC Clinical Process Algorithm](#)

Outside Winnipeg, refer to region-specific protocols.

### When to suspect Ebola virus disease?

Please note that consultation with the LIV-ID physician on-call is recommended for any travelers returning from certain designated areas of Uganda if they have the following symptoms within 21 days of return:

- fever
- feeling tired
- headache
- muscle pain and weakness
- sore throat
- rash
- nausea and vomiting
- diarrhea

The Public Health Agency of Canada provides valuable information and travel restrictions on areas within Uganda with active disease transmission of Ebola virus, visit: <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/uganda>.

For other advice/consultation on returned travelers or persons from endemic areas with febrile illnesses where Level 4 pathogens are not suspected, please contact the Attending Infectious Disease Physician on call for the by calling the Health Sciences Centre (204-787-2071) or St. Boniface Hospital (204-237-2053) switchboards, and specify if the call is for the adult or pediatric infectious diseases service.