



Office of the
Provincial Health Officer

Recommended Personnel for Persons under Investigation and Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease Cases

Provincial Ebola Expert Working Group

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This document describes which health care workers should provide care for patients who are being investigated for¹, or being treated for, Ebola virus disease.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) that must be worn by every health care worker providing care is specified in the *British Columbia Ebola Virus Disease Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines*, available at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/physician-resources-ebola.html. The type of PPE a health care worker wears is determined by assessing the risk of transmission.

A. Preamble

While the probability of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in British Columbia is low, it is essential that health care workers are prepared to safely and effectively care for patients. Preparedness relies on clear algorithms and clinical process, appropriate personal protective equipment supply and deployment, and appropriate training for staff in the processes and equipment.

This guidance has been developed in collaboration with infection control experts from across B.C., under the Expert Clinical Working Group of the Provincial Ebola Taskforce. Guidance is aligned with recommendations from the Public Health Agency of Canada and experience from other centres.

B. Guiding Principles

1. Along with the safety and care of patients, the safety of health care workers and environmental services workers is of paramount importance.
2. The number of health care workers entering the room must be kept to the minimum necessary to provide medical care. All health care workers entering the room must be tracked and documented.

¹ A person/patient under investigation is anyone with a potential exposure to the Ebola virus, or with any symptoms compatible with EVD.

C. Recommended Personnel

Recommendations for Personnel

1. Training in, and maintenance of, safe donning and doffing of PPE is a complex and resource intensive activity that should be focused on a small, designated group of health care workers whose participation on the care team is deemed essential.
2. All people entering the room must be trained in, and follow, recommended directions for donning and doffing PPE as described in documents for lower and higher transmission risk scenarios, available at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/physician-resources-ebola.html. The type of PPE to be worn is guided by the level of risk of transmission.
3. Sites designated to manage persons under **investigation, or confirmed EVD** cases must identify health care workers who will receive specific training in providing care to these cases. These staff should be highly proficient at donning and doffing the required PPE.
4. Laboratory testing and diagnostic imaging should only be conducted at Type 2 and Type 3 sites, and only when deemed medically necessary.² Any diagnostic imaging should be limited to procedures that can be performed in the patient room. Where specialized skills are not available in the core health care team and are considered essential, a limited number of health care workers with these skills should be identified and receive the necessary training for PPE in advance.

² Designated facilities are detailed in *Roles of Provincial Facilities for Care of Persons Under Investigation or Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease Patients*.

Recommended Personnel for Medically Necessary or Essential Tasks

Note: All personnel must wear recommended PPE.

Function	Recommended Personnel
Assessment and necessary care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ critical care/emergency department nurse ▶ physician
Initiation of peripheral intravenous access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ critical care/emergency department nurse ▶ physician
Collection of patient specimens (all specimens should be collected through existing lines wherever possible). ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ critical care/emergency department nurse ▶ physician
Medical imaging (portable X-ray and ultrasound machines required).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Imaging technician
Respiratory therapy (including intubation and set up of ventilator).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ critical care/emergency department nurse ▶ physician ▶ respiratory therapist
Dialysis (continuous renal replacement therapy).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ critical care nurse ▶ physician
Routine housekeeping (while patient is occupying room).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ critical care/emergency department nurse ▶ physician
Terminal clean (housekeeping after patient has been discharged from the room).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ environmental services

References

B.C. Ministry of Health. *British Columbia Ebola Virus Disease Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines.*

Available at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/physician-resources-ebola.html.

³ In facilities where the critical care/emergency department nurses and physicians may lack the proficiency to perform phlebotomy, a special team of laboratory personnel may be trained to perform this function.