

# **OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE**

Version 6 – March 10, 2015

**WORKPLACE HEALTH  
CALL CENTRE**



## **Introduction**

The Workplace Health Call Centre Occupational Health Nursing (WHCC OHN) provides occupationally acquired communicable disease (CD) post exposure follow up for employees of the following health authorities in BC: Fraser Health; Provincial Health Services Authority, including BC Emergency Health Services; Vancouver Coastal Health, including Providence Health Care; Island Health; Interior Health and Northern Health. WHCC OHN is managed by Fraser Health and is located at Central City in Surrey. In addition, other occupational health nursing services include: health history (immunity status) reviews for new employees within the first 3 months of hire; and management/follow up of blood/body fluid exposures (needle sticks, splashes) for up to 9 months depending upon risk associated with the exposure.

WHCC OHN works with regional health authority medical health officers in assessing and monitoring all CD post exposures of employees of health authorities listed above that occurred as a result of their work (i.e. measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, norovirus, invasive Group A Strep, tuberculosis, etc.).

WHCC OHN tracks employee exposures using the Workplace Health Indicator Tracking and Evaluation (WHITE™) database. Each health authority has its own instance of WHITE™. Data entered into the CD event management section and individual employee health files by the WHCC OHN is accessible by local health authority Occupational Health services.

WHCC OHN works with local Occupational Health services when post exposure vaccination / TB skin tests are required in the field. Post exposure blood tests are ordered by the WHCC OHN according to BC Centre for Disease Control protocols with results returned to the WHCC OHN.

The WHCC OHN operational hours are Mon-Fri, 0700-1700 hrs.

## **WHCC Role in EVD Occupational Exposure**

WHCC OHN is responsible for: identifying health authority employees with potential and actual EVD exposures; assessing the nature of the exposure against exposure criteria; liaising with medical health officers for direction on work exclusions and follow up; communicating with managers of exposed employees; follow up of exposed employees; facilitating incident reporting to WorkSafeBC through the WHCC Incident Reporting processes /system; and documenting in the employee's electronic health file.

### **Specific Processes (see attached)**

1. **Daily Staff In/Out Log Sheets** – These sheets **are to be faxed daily to the WHCC OHN from the patient unit** (Persons Under Investigation and Confirmed Cases) for identification of health authority employees with potential exposure to EVD. These sheets will be copied to Public Health during operational hours.
2. **Notification by Public Health / Infection Control** – As per our usual CD notification process, WHCC OHN is notified of an EVD patient (PUI or confirmed) by Infection Control and/or Public Health. This notification triggers a new CD event to be documented by the WHCC OHN in WHITE™.
3. **Direct Contact** – The WHCC OHN will assess whether the employee has had direct contact with an EVD patient and whether inappropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or a breach in PPE has occurred. Staff In/Out Log sheets contain this information.
4. **Local Medical Health Officer (MHO) Direction** – The MHO responsible for the local area in which the EVD patient unit is located will be contacted by the WHCC OHN for further direction related to the potentially exposed / exposed employee, including any work exclusion.
5. **Other Medical Health Officers** – The employee will be followed by the MHO in the geographical location where the employee lives. If that differs from where they work, the MHO for the EVD patient unit will contact the MHO where the employee lives to ensure monitoring of the employee is done.
6. **Monitoring by Public Health** – The potentially exposed / exposed employee will be actively monitored by Public Health for the duration of contact with the patient plus up to 21 days from the last patient contact. WHCC OHN will liaise with Public Health during this period of daily checks.
7. **Employees with Symptoms** – Employees who develop symptoms as a result of an occupational exposure **must contact Public Health immediately** for direction. **Public Health will notify WHCC OHN during operational hours.** The WHCC will notify the employee's manager, the local health authority occupational health and safety representatives, and the WHCC Incident Reporting system/process to complete the required incident report for submission to WorkSafeBC. The WHCC OHN is responsible for documentation in WHITE™.

### **Abbreviations**

**WHCC OHN** – Workplace Health Call Centre, Occupational Health Nursing

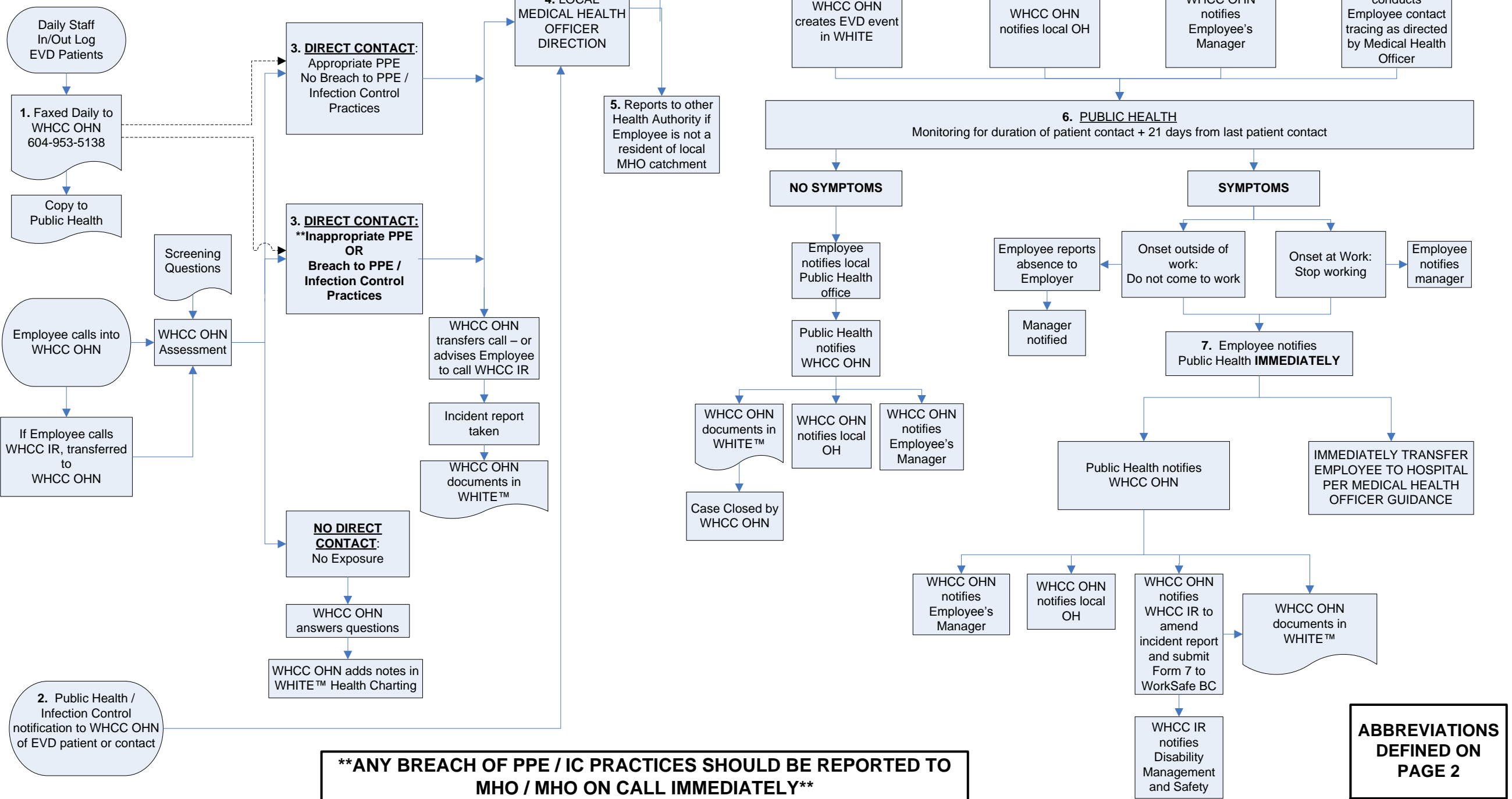
**OH** – Occupational Health

**EVD** – Ebola Virus Disease

**WHITE™ Database** - Workplace Health Indicator Tracking and Evaluation Database

**PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment

# OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO EBOLA



**\*\*ANY BREACH OF PPE / IC PRACTICES SHOULD BE REPORTED TO MHO / MHO ON CALL IMMEDIATELY\*\***

**ABBREVIATIONS DEFINED ON PAGE 2**