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**Ministère de la Santé
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August 2, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Medical Officers of Health, health sector employers and health care workers

Re: Release of new plan *Building a Ready and Resilient Health System* and rescinding Ebola virus disease directives

The World Health Organization recently declared the end of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern for the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa. New EVD cases are still being reported in West Africa. Ontario's health system may encounter patients who have recovered from EVD and who carry the virus. An updated EVD Outbreak Case Definition has been posted on Ontario.ca/ebola. However, the risk posed to Ontarians from Ebola virus disease remains very low.

As a result, all Ebola virus disease directives are no longer in effect as of August 2, 2016. We acknowledge the efforts of all health care workers and organizations that implemented the requirements of the directives. These efforts ensured the safety of all Ontarians. We also thank Dr. David Mowat and Dr. Graham Pollett who were the Interim Chief Medical Officers of Health and who provided leadership throughout the EVD preparedness efforts.

Ontario's response to the EVD outbreak strengthened the readiness of our health system to respond to an infectious disease event. We identified gaps, and addressed opportunities to strengthen overall system readiness.

In a globalized world, and with the pressures of climate change, the threat of new and emerging infectious diseases that could impact Ontario is increasing.

As a result, we are pleased to release the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's *Building a Ready and Resilient Health System, Ebola Step-Down and Provincial Baseline Requirements for Infectious Disease Threats*. This plan builds on the actions taken to enhance the province's readiness for EVD. It identifies new baseline requirements for Ontario's health system. These requirements, and the next two phases of this work, will help ensure that the health system is ready to respond to infectious disease threats. The plan and more information can be found on [the Ministry website](#).

Public Health Ontario has also released *Guidance for Patients with Suspect or Confirmed Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers (VHF) in Acute Care Settings* and *Management of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Survivors in Ontario*. These documents will help all health partners prepare for VHF diseases, including EVD. Both documents can be accessed on [Public Health Ontario's website](#).

Health system partners can contact the ministry's Emergency Management Branch by email at emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca or phone at 416-212-0822 with questions regarding this communication.



Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care



David C. Williams, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Chief Medical Officer of Health

Attachment

- Building a Ready and Resilient Health System, Ebola Step-Down and Provincial Baseline Requirements for Infectious Disease Threats

c: Dr. Robert Bell, Deputy Minister
Roselle Martino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Population and Public Health Division
Peter Donnelly, President and CEO, Public Health Ontario