

Ebola Threat in Saskatchewan

A major health crisis is potentially occurring in Saskatchewan. A medical student from the University of Saskatchewan just returned home two days ago from volunteer work in Africa with *Doctors without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres*. She was admitted to the Royal University hospital in Saskatoon about an hour ago (9:30 am) presenting with symptoms that may indicate she contracted the Ebola virus. Though she had not been to a part of Africa thought to have been at risk for contracting Ebola, her symptoms coupled with her travel history prompted the check-in nurse to alert local health authorities.

All that is known at this point is that the student lives by herself in a condo she rents downtown, and she stayed home during the two days after she arrived home to rest from the long trip. Only her mother had dropped by to visit. However, she attended a class at the university at 8:30 this morning for approximately 20 minutes, at which point she started to feel very ill, left the class, and walked over to the emergency room at the Royal University Hospital. Before she left the university, she had thrown up in a bathroom in the College of Arts and Science building due to nausea.

The Deputy Minister of Health has been informed and immediately pulled together your team of health policy experts, crisis intervention experts, and communication experts to develop a plan for how to deal with this situation if it is confirmed that the student has indeed contracted the Ebola virus. Since Saskatchewan is not one of the provinces with the capability to run rapid, preliminary tests for Ebola, it is likely that you will not know for certain if the student has contracted Ebola for at least two days.

The Deputy Minister of Health has just briefed the Minister of Health, the Premier, and the Deputy Minister to the Premier about the situation, and they will be meeting with your team in just over an hour to hear your analysis of the situation and recommendations.

Saskatchewan's Response to Ebola: <http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/ebola>

Canada's Response to Ebola

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health-and-fitness/health/ottawa-readies-ebola-response-team-provinces-designate-treatment-centres/article21121980/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/ebola-outbreak-no-new-medical-personnel-for-now-rona-ambrose-says-1.2805765?cmp=rss>

<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/diseases-conditions-maladies-affections/disease-maladie/ebola/response-reponse-eng.php>

Public Health Agency of Canada

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/cepr-cmiu/ophs-bssp/quar-eng.php>

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ep-mu/index-eng.php>

Ebola Fact Sheets:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/ebola-factsheet.pdf>