
Summary of Changes to the CMOH Directive for Paramedic Services

The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) issued a Directive for Paramedic Services to provide instructions to paramedics, first responders and employers concerning precautions and procedures related to Ebola virus disease (EVD).

A revised version of the Directive was issued on December 2, 2014. The fundamental guidance in the directive remains unchanged.

Minor changes to the Directive include:

- a re-ordering of the document sections for improved access to contents
- additional detail regarding the ministry's existing bypass agreement approval process
- clarifying the use of designated ambulances for confirmed EVD cases only
- correcting references / language regarding port of entry service
- correction to PPE legging length for use with gowns vs. one piece protective suites
- additional detail has been added to many of the fundamental components of the directive, such as donning and doffing, waste management and other sections
- clarifying the approval of PAPR equipment as an alternative PPE solution
- clarifying the role of isolated drivers and pilots and respective PPE requirements
- formatting of section headers has been changed to comply with accessibility requirements
- clarifying the practice of cleaning gloved hands
- clarifying the permitted number of paramedics used for transport of confirmed EVD patients.

Noteworthy changes to the Directive include:

- a definition section has been introduced
- guidance for designated paramedic services and designated ambulance deployment and preparation has been added as an appendix to the directive (Appendix 2)
- allowing for more judgement by the paramedic service regarding the choice of facial and eye protection combinations
- removal of the ministry EVD Screening Tool for Paramedic Services from the directive (the screening tool will be managed and distributed by the EHSB to paramedic services and ambulance communication centres)
- acknowledgement of a containment vessel suitable and approved for use in Ornge operations

Paramedics and paramedic services may contact the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Health Care Provider Hotline by phone at 1-866-212-2272 or by email at emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca with any questions or concerns about Ontario's health system readiness for EVD.