

Public Health Updates - Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (2026)

Temporary federal border measures related to Ebola disease outbreak caused by Bundibugyo virus are more stringent than Viral Hemorrhagic Fever disease contact management guidance in the Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Manual. As a result, additional direction is required regarding public health follow-up of individuals subject to federal quarantine measures.

- Travellers from Ebola-affected areas will be assessed by a quarantine officer at the port of entry. Those without symptoms who meet border screening requirements may travel to their final destination, including Saskatchewan, to complete a 21-day quarantine from the date they entered Canada.
- Individuals are instructed to call their local public health authority if symptoms develop.
- Compliance with the Quarantine Act is under the authority of the federal government. For questions or concerns on quarantine requirements, public health can direct individuals to <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/ebola/border-measures.html> or advise individuals to review the traveler handout received at the border or call 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232).
- Federal follow-up with Category 1 quarantined individuals is expected to occur once, typically on day 8 or 9 of the quarantine period. Category 2 quarantined individuals require at least daily follow-up by local public health.
- Additional follow-up by local public health may be needed to support symptom identification and any psychosocial challenges due to quarantine.
 - Individuals may be eligible for Employment Insurance Benefits and can be directed to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-sickness/qualify.html>
- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has released two resources to support management of the current Ebola disease outbreak. These resources are available on CNPHI and will be posted on Canada.ca. **Ensure the most current versions are used when assessing and reporting potential cases.**
 - Person Under Investigation (PUI) Ebola Disease Outbreak Case Definition for the 2026 Bundibugyo virus outbreak
 - Considerations to support the assessment of a person under quarantine who develops symptoms during the 2026 Ebola disease outbreak caused by the Bundibugyo virus

Effective immediately:

- During the period of federal temporary border security measures, local public health will contact quarantined individuals within 1 business day of notification of their return to Saskatchewan.
- Further follow-up will occur as follows:
 - **Category 1:** frequency and method of follow up will be determined based on a public health risk assessment, including period for onset of illness (21 days from last potential exposure) and the individual's likelihood of developing illness.
 - **Category 2:** minimum daily.
- For risk assessment guidance, refer to the PHAC resource 'Considerations to support the assessment of a person under quarantine who develops symptoms during the 2026 Ebola disease outbreak caused by the Bundibugyo virus'.
- **Document in Panorama IOM as follows:**
 - Create a Contact Investigation. Disease = Viral Hemorrhagic Fever; Microorganism = Bundibugyo virus
 - The Data Collection Worksheet guides Panorama IOM documentation for Contact Investigations:
 - Classification
 - Asymptomatic, Category 1 = Contact-Not a contact
 - Asymptomatic, Category 2 = Contact-Contact
 - Disposition = In progress
 - Risk Factors
 - Select Other Risk Factor (Add'l Info) and enter the client's submission ID or response ID as specified on the federal line list
 - **Category 1 only:** Select Travel Out of Canada (Add'l Info) and enter the city, province, and country of travel
 - Interventions
 - **Category 2 only:** Acquisition Event
 - During all initial and follow-up contacts, assess for signs and symptoms of Ebola disease
 - If no symptoms at end of 21-day quarantine, within 1 business day:
 - Update Disposition = Complete
 - Investigation Status = Closed

If symptoms develop during quarantine:

- Update classification based on the PHAC PUI Outbreak Case Definition and complete notification as outlined in the CDC Manual
- Add Signs and Symptoms, enter date and select onset as appropriate
- Update Interventions

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