

Preserving

**For Immediate Release: November 12, 2014**

## **Campbellford Memorial Hospital Follows Best Practices in Infection Control**

### **Hospital Takes Cautionary Steps for Ebola Preparedness**

#### **NEWS:**

While the risk of contracting Ebola in Trent Hills is low, the team at Campbellford Memorial Hospital have taken precautionary measures to ensure it is ready should a patient showing Ebola-like symptoms present at its Emergency Department.

In a presentation to the hospital's Board of Directors on November 6, Campbellford Memorial Hospital's Infection Control Lead Marilyn Petherick shared facts about the Ebola Virus Disease, outlined the hospital's strategies and provincial directives and its on-going focus on patient safety and infection control.

Since August, the hospital has taken steps to ensure its preparedness for Ebola including:

- Having Ebola Personal Protection Equipment in the ER Department, having a dedicated room within the ER for patients showing symptoms where Ebola is suspected and modifying the ER triage area with a plexi-glass wall to minimize the risk of infection to hospital staff
- Developing an Ebola Task Force and Action Plan
- Participating in on-going Public Health Ontario, Central East Local Health Integration Network and Ministry of Health and Long-term Care briefing sessions and related training and ensuring compliance with all government directed protocols and procedures
- Having hospital staff undergo a significant amount of training around Ebola and the use of Personal Protection Equipment
- Screen both in-patients and out-patients on travel history – anyone presenting related symptoms who have a travel history undergo a special screening
- On-going hand-hygiene audits to ensure hand washing compliance

Prior to the current Ebola outbreak's start in Guinea in December, 2013, the hospital has had in place a very robust infection control program that touches every aspect of its operations and includes:

- CMH assesses every patient admitted to the hospital using a Risk Assessment Tool to determine if there are concerns that could result in harm to the patient during his or her hospital stay or upon discharge home.
- Include statements on comprehensive infection control policies and procedures, education and surveillance

- Participating in a comprehensive training program called *Just Clean Your Hands*, with trained observers in the hospital conducting hand hygiene audits (using a provincial audit tool), recording what they see, and reporting their compliance rates to the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care
- Recognizing and honouring the role housekeeping staff play in the front lines of infection control.
- Having an Antibiotics Stewardship Program focused on tackling the presence of C. diff in the hospital by finding reasonable alternatives to and discouraging the use of those antibiotics most typically associated with the presence of C. diff and most likely to be used to treat pneumonia.

#### QUOTES:

“Patient safety is an on-going priority at Campbellford Memorial Hospital. We are at low risk of seeing a case of Ebola in this area and even if we were to see an Ebola case, given the procedures and precautions the hospital has in place, there is an extremely low risk to the public,” says Marilyn Petherick, Infection Control Lead, Campbellford Memorial Hospital.

#### BACKGROUND:

- The current Ebola outbreak began in Guinea in December 2013 and there are over 13,000 cases to date as of November 2014.
- A patient is contagious only when symptomatic and become more contagious as they become sicker.
- Incubation is 2 – 21 days
- The infection is transmitted through direct contact with blood and body fluids through mucosal contact or through non-intact skin or contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment. The fastest incubation period has been reported associated with needle stick injury.
- Ebola is not an airborne disease.

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