# Advice on Ebola Virus for the Campus Community from the Office of the Provost

December 10, 2014

While there are currently no cases of Ebola virus in Canada, and the risk to Canadians remains low, University of Windsor staff continue to monitor developments in regions affected by the virus. Any students, faculty or staff arriving from affected regions should follow the advice from the Ontario [Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola/).

Based on the current Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) guidelines, individuals who have arrived from countries currently under Level 3 travel advisories related to the Ebola virus will be referred upon arrival in the country to a Quarantine Officer for a mandatory health assessment including a temperature check: the officer will complete an assessment form, and will provide asymptomatic travelers with further direction regarding self-monitoring. The traveler may also be given an Order under the federal Quarantine Act to report to a public health authority. More information about this policy can be found on the [Public Health Agency of Canada website](http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=902979). At the time of this announcement, this guideline applied to the following countries with Level 3 travel advisories to avoid non-essential travel: Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea.There is also a travel advisory for Mali (Level 2: practice special precautions). Current information can always be found through PHAC at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/notices-avis/notices-avis-eng.php?id=138> .

For additional information, please contact the [Windsor-Essex County Health Unit](https://www.wechu.org/).

You can also find information about Ebola virus disease on the following websites:

* [Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola/)
* [Public Health Agency of Canada](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/vhf-fvh/ebola-eng.php)
* [World Health Organization](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/)

The University’s [Student Health Services](http://www1.uwindsor.ca/health/) unit is monitoring the situation, and is working to ensure that appropriate protocols are in place in case of emergency. The University of Windsor’s [Emergency Procedures Handbook](http://www1.uwindsor.ca/campuspolice/system/files/EmergencyGuide.pdf) provides an overview of standard procedures to be undertaken in the case of pandemics or infectious disease. Should a suspected case of Ebola occur at the University, the University will work in conjunction with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to ensure that the appropriate guidelines have been implemented.

## Travelling through or to Countries Affected by Ebola

All members of the University of Windsor community considering travel to or through countries currently experiencing Ebola outbreaks should be aware that the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has issued travel health notices for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, indicating that **Canadians avoid non-essential travel to these countries, and a further notice that travelers to Mali should practice special precautions to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.**

These recommendations are made to protect Canadian travelers and make it easier for health officials in affected countries to dedicate their resources towards controlling the outbreak. The risk of infection is low for most travelers; however the risk may be increased for those who are working in a health care setting or for travelers who require medical care in affected areas, as most human infections result from direct contact with body fluids of an infected patient. There may also be difficulties accessing health care services due to increasingly burdened health care systems.

**The University of Windsor strongly endorses PHAC’s recommendations for students, faculty and staff considering travel through or to these countries. At a minimum, staff or faculty planning to visit these regions should consult** [a pre-travel clinic](http://travelhealthclinics.ca/Travel-Health-Clinics.aspx) **in the Windsor region and be guided in their decision making by the advice they receive.**

**Please click** [here](http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories?_ga=1.229676382.335441697.1415644923) **for the latest updates from PHAC.**

Travelers should also be aware that international travel advisories may impact Green Shield’s out of country medical insurance coverage, and that in some cases there may be no consular support in affected countries. All faculty or staff intending to travel through or to an affected area or country are asked to verify their coverage, and are strongly encouraged to register with Foreign Affairs Canada and participate in any available briefings regarding travel to these areas. For more information about specific coverage, please contact Green Shield Customer Service at 1-800-936-6226.

We ask that all University of Windsor students or employees planning to travel through or to affected areas or countries and then to return to campus inform the Provost’s Office of their plans, by email at vpacademic@uwindsor.ca .

As indicated above, those returning from visits through or to affected countries are asked to adhere strictly to the guidelines and instructions provide by the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Quarantine Officer with whom they meet.

Prepared by the Office of the Provost

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