## Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

**Chief Medical Officer of Health** 

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## Ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Medical officers of health, health sector employers and health care workers

## RE: Liberia continues to remain on the list of countries affected by Ebola virus disease

On May 9, 2015, the World Health Organization announced that Liberia is Ebola virus disease (EVD)-free after 42 days without any new cases.

This is promising and eagerly anticipated news in the fight against this devastating disease – and it demonstrates the progress that continues to be made by government officials, health workers and community leaders in West Africa to manage the response to this epidemic.

The ministry has been discussing this potential development with the federal government and whether it would impact the current measures in place in Canada and within Ontario's health system. There are factors, such as the porous borders between Liberia and the other affected countries, which must continue to be taken into account.

At this time, we understand that the federal government will continue to screen and issue orders to travellers from Liberia under the federal quarantine program. As such, Ontario's measures will remain unchanged until further notice.

Hospitals, paramedic services and primary care settings should continue to consider EVD in patients with recent travel history to Liberia. As well, public health units should continue to monitor travellers from Liberia that are issued orders under the federal quarantine program, and to support any travellers that develop symptoms compatible with EVD to access the health system. Resources to support these activities are available at <u>www.ontario.ca/ebola</u>.

The ministry will continue to monitor the situation in West Africa in partnership with colleagues at the federal and provincial levels. Updates will be communicated to the health system through a Chief Medical Officer of Health memo.

Health sector employers and health care workers may continue to contact the ministry's Health Care Provider Hotline by email at <u>emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca</u> or by phone at 1-866-212-2272 with questions or concerns about EVD.

Original signed by

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