

OHS Case ID: 01333HQT703  
Field Visit no: 01333HQT704 Visit Date: 2014-SEP-12 Field Visit Type: INITIAL  
Workplace Identification: SAULT AREA HOSPITAL Notice ID:  
750 GREAT NORTHERN ROAD, SAULT STE. MARIE, ON, CANADA P6B  
5A3

Telephone: (705) 759-3434 JHSC Status: Active Work Force #: 1800 Completed %:

Persons Contacted: SHIRLEY PULKKINEN - JHSC, MEMBER, BECKY CHIAROT - SAFETY COORDINATOR, CAROLE MANZO - OCC. HEALTH, LORI KRAFT - INFECTION CONTROL NURSE, MATTI-ROSE TOTEDA - STUDENT, ERIN SMYLIE - NURSE EDUCATOR, SCOTT NEAL - EMS.

Visit Purpose: INSPECTION  
Visit Location: 750 GREAT NORTHERN ROAD, SAULT STE. MARIE  
Visit Summary: ACCOMPANIED BY MOL INSPECTOR - LEILA PARK.

Detailed Narrative:

MOL Inspectors D. Jones and L. Park attended the workplace on September 12, 2014 to conduct an audit regarding infection prevention and control measures with regard to potential Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) exposure. At the time of this visit, patients are not currently (and have not been) admitted and isolated due to infection with Ebola Virus. During the inspection of the workplace, observations were made relating to the hazards of infection, and the controls that have been implemented by the employer with respect to EVD. It is recognized that this is an evolving situation and appreciate the efforts the employer has taken so far to prepare for a case.

MEASURES AND PROCEDURES FOR WORKER SAFETY

During this visit it was observed that the employer has put into place measures and procedures that reflect the guidance provided by Public Health Ontario (PHO). Public Health Ontario has also prepared guidance entitled "Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Patients With Suspected or Confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) In Ontario Health Care Settings, dated August 14, 2014 and revised August 29, 2014. It was reported that information from the draft policy has been used as guidance to formulate policy and to educate workers.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal protective equipment (PPE) was observed in the ER. In discussions with staff in the ER there appeared to be overall awareness of the circumstances for the use of protective equipment. PPE is available to workers including face shields, N95 respirators, gloves and gowns that were rated for fluid resistance and additional foot/leg coverings are on order.. A respirator fit testing program is in place at the hospital.

| Recipient                     | Inspector Data  | Worker Representative          |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Name: <u>Becky Chiarot</u>    | DONALD JONES<br>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR<br>PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER<br>70 FOSTER DR, SUITE 480<br>SAULT STE MARIE, ON P6A 6V4<br>Tel: 705-945-6608<br>Fax: 705-949-9798 | Name: <u>Shirley Pulkkinen</u> |
| Title: <u>OHS OFFICER</u>     |   | Title: <u>JHSC Rep. OAsc B</u> |
| Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> | Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>   | Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>  |

You are required under the Occupational Health and Safety Act to post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at the workplace and provide a copy to the health and safety representative or the joint health and safety committee if any. Failure to comply with an order, decision or requirement of an inspector is an offence under Section 66 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. You have the right to appeal any order or decision within 30 days of the date of the order issued and to request suspension of the order or decision by filing your appeal and request in writing on the appropriate forms with the Ontario Labour Relations Board, 505 University Ave., 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5G 2P1. You may also contact the Board by phone at (416) 326-7500 or 1-877-339-3335 (toll free), mail or by website at <http://www.oltb.gov.on.ca/english/homepage.htm> for more information.



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Emergency Department:

PPE was readily available in the ER and in carts located in the ER area.

An isolation room was readily available with an anteroom as well as an additional private room available if required.

Signage was noted instructing patients to immediately report specific symptoms and relevant travel history to ER staff upon entry.

Brief forms with similar instruction are given to patients upon arrival.

Staff immediately ask this information when speaking with a patient.

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTION TO WORKERS ABOUT HAZARDS

In discussions with staff in the ER and managers it was learned that information regarding the need for precautions when dealing with a patient who is suspect for EVD was disseminated to workers by email (part of workplace email communication), in team huddles that have occurred in the ER and through personal communications delivered by a nurse educator. It was noted that there are not complete records to confirm which workers did attend "huddles" or received information.

The employer is advised that the training required by this order applies to all workers who work in and around the ER, and not just the clinical staff.

Training related to the measures to protect workers should be appropriate to the nature and type of work performed by a worker and may address issues such as signs, symptoms and screening criteria to be used, the nature of EVD and how it is transmitted, how isolation precautions are applied, point of care risk assessment and what PPE is required when providing care to patients.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS

It was noted that Sault Area Hospital uses some 400 volunteers throughout the facility. The employer is advised to provide adequate training to protect the health and safety of those volunteers who may be at risk of exposure to Ebola Virus Disease for their personal health and also the health and safety of others.

| Recipient                     | Inspector Data  | Worker Representative            |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Name: <u>Betty Chiarot</u>    | DONALD JONES<br>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR<br>PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER<br>70 FOSTER DR, SUITE 480<br>SAULT STE MARIE, ON P6A 6V4<br>Tel: 705-945-6608<br>Fax: 705-949-9796 | Name: <u>Shirley Palkin</u>      |
| Title: <u>OHS Officer</u>     |   | Title: <u>JHSC Rep - OpSec B</u> |
| Signature: <u>[Signature]</u> | Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>   | Signature: <u>[Signature]</u>    |

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Order(s) /Requirement(s) Issued To:
To: SAULT AREA HOSPITAL
Org/Incl Role: Primary Employer

Mailing Address:
750 GREAT NORTHERN RD, SAULT STE. MARIE, ON, CA P6B 5A3

Order(s) /Requirement(s) Description:
You are required to comply with the order(s) /requirement(s) by the dates listed below.

Table with 7 columns: No, Type Code, Act/Reg, Year, Sec., Sub Clause, Text of Order/Requirement, Comply by Date. Row 1: 1, Time, OHS 1990, 67, 1993, 9, 4, The employer shall provide training and instruction to protect workers in health and safety measures and procedures regarding possible exposure to Ebola Virus Disease...

Recipient: Name: Becky Chiarot, Title: OHS Office, Signature: [Signature]
Inspector Data: DONALD JONES, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTOR, PROVINCIAL OFFENCES OFFICER, 70 FOSTER DR, SUITE 480, SAULT STE MARIE, ON P6A 6V4, Tel: 705-945-6608, Fax: 705-949-9794
Worker Representative: Name: Shirley Palkkinen, Title: JHSC Rep - Opsen B, Signature: [Signature]

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