

Ebola and the use of gloves

Dear Colleague,

We are following the Ebola situation closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and Transport Canada, who provide direction and guidelines in matters concerning public health. We also monitor closely information provided by the World Health Organization (WHO). It should be noted that the W.H.O. advises that the risk to travellers to the affected regions is low and does not recommend travel restrictions or additional passenger screening at this time. Our priority is to ensure that we continue to provide for the safety of our employees and our customers.

The guidance provided from these agencies indicates that at this point in time there is no requirement for employees to use any personal protective equipment (PPE) when carrying out normal daily work duties, unless this PPE was already a requirement to perform their work. The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada this past week took the opportunity to remind Canadians that the Ebola virus does not spread from person to person, it is not like the flu. It is spread through direct contact with an individual's bodily fluids with symptoms not through casual contact.

However, some Airport employees who interact directly with the public have requested that they be able to wear gloves. We have no objection to the elective use of gloves. Our management team will provide gloves as requested to employees who are in direct physical contact with customers during their shift. Prior to our management team dispensing gloves to these employees, they will review the attached disposable glove procedures with them and record that they have received instructions.

Some examples where gloves can be issued include employees providing special assistance to customers such as physically assisting customers, lifting customers and helping customers into wheelchairs.

Please remember whether you choose to use gloves or not for these tasks, proper hand hygiene is the best practice for all of us. Attached you will find more information on this topic.

We will continue to provide you with updates as they become available.

Sincerely,



Robert Atkinson
Manager, Airports Occupational Health and Safety