



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
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CHANGES TO PRACTICE DURING A DISEASE OUTBREAK

Practice FAQs

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QUESTION

Can we change any of our usual practices during a disease outbreak like Ebola? For example, would it be acceptable if we changed the frequency of our ventilator checks from Q2 to Q4?

ANSWER

Practice standards must always be evidence-based and created from the perspective having the best interest of our patients in mind. Therefore, any decision to depart from these standards should also be founded in the current best-practices that offer optimal patient care. In the example of ventilator checks, if sound clinical evidence supports reducing the frequency of staff entering an isolation room, perhaps adopting a remote ventilator monitoring system would be the most appropriate solution. Regardless of the change made, it's essential that every possible step is taken to ensure practice modifications do not negatively impact any of our patients or result in an inferior level of care.