



EBOLA FACT SHEET

What is Ebola?

Ebola, also known as viral hemorrhagic fever is a viral infection caused by a virus of the family Filoviridae, genus Ebolavirus.

What are the signs and symptoms of Ebola?

A person infected with Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear. Typical signs and symptoms of Ebola include: Fever (greater than 101.5°F), severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola but the average is 8 to 10 days.

How does Ebola spread?

The virus spreads from person to person through direct contact with the blood or body fluids (including but not limited to feces, saliva, urine, vomit and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola. The virus in the blood and body fluids can enter another person's body through broken skin or unprotected mucous membranes. For example, the eyes, nose, or mouth.

How is Ebola diagnosed?

Diagnosing Ebola in a person who has been infected for only a few days is difficult because the early symptoms, such as fever, are not specific to Ebola infection and are seen often in patients with more commonly occurring diseases, such as flu.

However, if a person has symptoms of Ebola and has returned from travel to countries currently experiencing Ebola outbreaks in the past 21 days before getting sick, the individual should be isolated and public health professionals notified. Samples from the patient can then be collected and tested to confirm infection.

What is the treatment for Ebola?

Currently, there is no treatment for Ebola. Recovery from Ebola depends on the patient's immune response. People who recover from Ebola infection develop antibodies that last for at least 10 years. Currently, there is no vaccine against Ebola.

How to prevent Ebola?

Avoid contact with sick people. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water. Avoid all nonessential travel to countries currently experiencing outbreak of Ebola.

Countries currently experiencing outbreaks of Ebola are Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia.

For additional information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

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