

Ebola

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet

(UPDATED: October 20th, 2014)



What is Ebola?

Ebola is a severe, often fatal, hemorrhagic disease caused by the Ebola virus.

A person who is exposed to Ebola virus may develop symptoms of the disease in 2 to 21 days.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of Ebola can include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Joint and Muscle Aches
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Stomach Pain
- Lack of Appetite
- Abnormal Bleeding

How does Ebola spread?

Ebola is spread through direct contact with the blood or other bodily fluids of a sick person.

It can also be spread through funeral rites that involve touching the body of a person who died from Ebola.

Ebola is not spread through food, water, or the air.

Where is Ebola occurring?

The current Ebola outbreak has been centered in West Africa in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

An updated list of affected countries is available at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.

There has been limited spread of Ebola in Dallas, Texas to nurses who cared for an imported case of Ebola.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its partners are working to prevent further spread of Ebola within the United States. The risk of widespread Ebola in the U.S. is extremely low.

Am I at risk for getting Ebola?

You cannot get Ebola from a person unless they have symptoms of the disease.

You are no longer at risk of getting sick with Ebola if it has been more than 21 days since you had exposure to a person sick with Ebola.

You may be at risk of getting sick with Ebola if it has been less than 21 days since you:

- Had direct contact with blood or body fluids or items that came into contact with blood or body fluid from a person sick with Ebola.
- Touched bats, monkeys, or apes or blood, fluids, or raw meat prepared from these animals from an Ebola-affected country.
- Touched the body of a person who died from Ebola.

What should I do if I think I have been exposed to Ebola?

If you have been exposed to Ebola, you should take your temperature two times a day for 21 days.

If you develop a fever of over 101 degrees, a severe headache, or other symptoms listed above, call 911.

Tell them your symptoms, and tell them that you have recently traveled to an Ebola-affected county and/or have been in contact with a person who was sick with Ebola.