



Health Advisory: Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa

Minnesota Department of Health Tue July 29 13:45 CDT 2014

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health departments: Please forward to hospitals and clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals and clinics: Please forward to healthcare professionals, particularly those in urgent care and emergency departments.

Healthcare professionals:

- Obtain a travel history for patients presenting with sudden onset of fever and malaise, with other nonspecific signs and symptoms, such as myalgia, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea
- If a patient has recent (within 21 days) travel history to countries where Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is occurring and signs and symptoms are consistent with EVD, ask the patient about contact with ill individuals or cases of EVD, and types of activities during their travel (e.g., exposure to healthcare facilities, caring for ill individuals, wildlife exposure)
- Isolate patients who have travel to an affected area, symptoms, particularly if they have had contact with ill individuals during travel (please call MDH)
- Test patients for other diseases endemic to the region as clinically indicated (e.g., malaria, typhoid, etc)
- If evaluating a patient suspected to have EVD, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 1-877-676-5414 (toll-free) or 651-201-5414
- If evaluating a patient for a pre-travel visit to an affected region, see CDC travel advisories (Guinea: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-guinea>; Liberia: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-liberia>; Sierra Leone: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-sierra-leone>)

CDC Health Advisory: Ebola Virus Disease Confirmed in a Traveler to Nigeria, Two U.S. Healthcare Workers in Liberia

Summary

Nigerian health authorities have confirmed a diagnosis of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in a patient who died on Friday in a hospital in Lagos, Nigeria, after traveling from Liberia on July 20, 2014. The report marks the first Ebola case in Nigeria linked to the current outbreak in the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. Health authorities also reported this weekend that two U.S. citizens working in a hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, have confirmed Ebola virus infection. These recent cases, together with the continued increase in the number of Ebola cases in West Africa, underscore the potential for travel-associated spread of the disease and the risks of EVD to healthcare workers. While the possibility of infected persons entering the U.S. remains low, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises that healthcare providers in the U.S. should consider EVD in the differential diagnosis of febrile illness, with compatible symptoms, in any person with recent (within 21 days) travel history in the affected countries and consider isolation of those patients meeting these criteria, pending diagnostic testing.

Background

CDC is working with the World Health Organization (WHO), the ministries of health of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and other international organizations in response to an outbreak of EVD in West Africa, which was first reported in late March 2014. As of July 23, 2014, according to WHO, a total of 1,201 cases and 672 deaths (case fatality 55-60%) had been reported in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. This is the largest outbreak of EVD ever documented and the first recorded in West Africa.

EVD is characterized by sudden onset of fever and malaise, accompanied by other nonspecific signs and symptoms, such as myalgia, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea. Patients with severe forms of the disease may develop multi-organ dysfunction, including hepatic damage, renal failure, and central nervous system involvement, leading to shock and death.

In outbreak settings, Ebola virus is typically first spread to humans after contact with infected wildlife and is then spread person-to-person through direct contact with bodily fluids such as, but not limited to, blood, urine, sweat, semen, and breast milk. The incubation period is usually 8–10 days (rarely ranging from 2–21 days). Patients can transmit the virus while febrile and through later stages of disease, as well as postmortem, when persons contact the body during funeral preparations.



The recent cases in a traveler and in healthcare workers demonstrate the risk for spread of EVD in these populations. While no EVD cases have been reported in the United States, a human case, caused by a related virus, Marburg virus, occurred in Denver, Colorado in 2008. Successful implementation of standard precautions was sufficient to limit onward transmission. Other imported cases of viral hemorrhagic fever disease were also successfully managed through effective barrier methods, including a recent Lassa fever case in Minnesota.

For more information:

Additional information on EVD can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ebola>

Interim Guidance on EVD for healthcare workers can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/abroad/healthcare-workers.html>

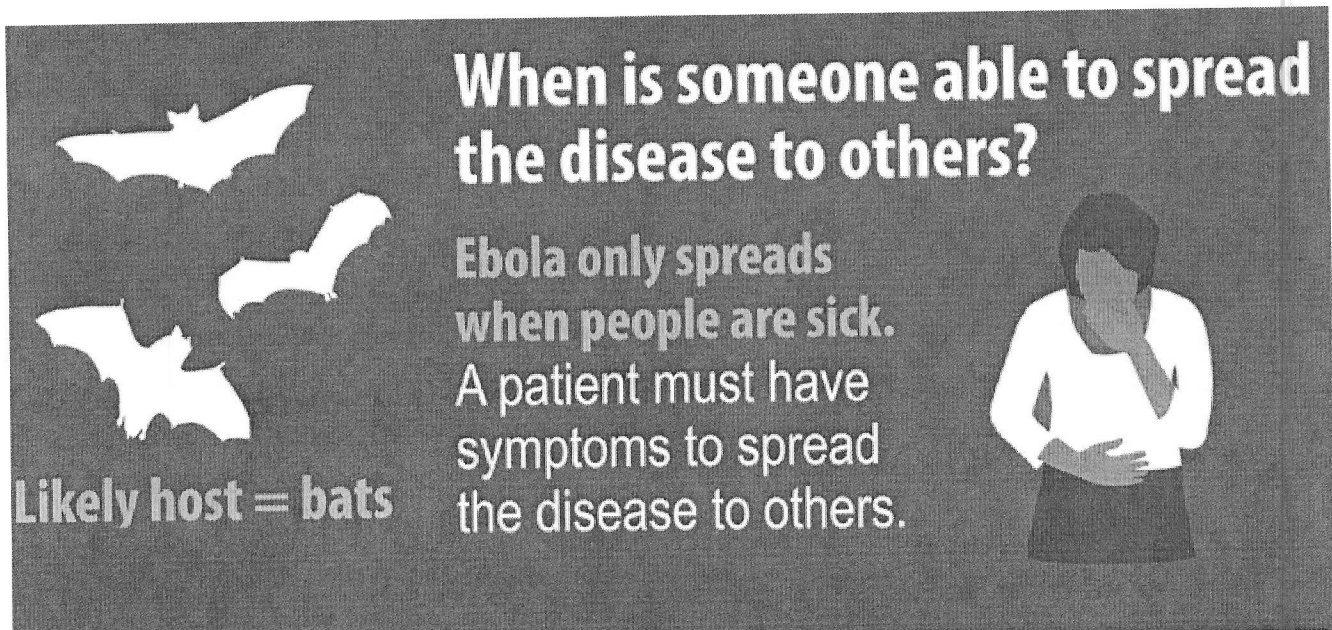
Travel notices for each country can be found at:

- Guinea: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-guinea>
- Liberia: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-liberia>
- Sierra Leone: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/ebola-sierra-leone>



Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever



Understanding how Ebola Spreads
(</vhf/ebola/transmission/index.html>)

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SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to ebolavirus...

(</vhf/ebola/symptoms/index.html>)

TRANSMISSION

Spread through bodily fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola...

(</vhf/ebola/transmission/index.html>)

RISK OF EXPOSURE

During outbreaks of Ebola, those at highest risk include health care workers and family...

(/vhf/ebola/exposure/index.html)

OUTBREAKS

List of all current and past outbreaks, outbreak chronology and references...

(/vhf/ebola/resources/outbreaks.html)

FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Updated guidance for managing or preparing for Ebola in the U.S. and abroad...

(/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html)

PREVENTION

Those at highest risk include health care workers and the family and friends of an infected individual...

(/vhf/ebola/prevention/index.html)

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosing Ebola in an individual who has been infected for only a few days is difficult...

(/vhf/ebola/diagnosis/index.html)

TREATMENT

The treatment of Ebola presents many challenges... there are few established prevention measures...

(/vhf/ebola/treatment/index.html)

Important Clinical Guidance (/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html)

- Ebola Virus Disease Information for Clinicians in U.S. Healthcare Settings (/vhf/ebola/hcp/clinician-information-us-healthcare-settings.html)
- Guidance: Air Medical Transport for Patients with Ebola (/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-air-medical-transport-patients.html)
- Case Definition for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) (/vhf/ebola/hcp/case-definition.html)

- Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Known or Suspected Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in U.S. Hospitals (</vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html>)
- Sequence for Putting On and Removing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
[PDF - 2 pages] (</vhf/ebola/pdf/ppe-poster.pdf>)
- Safe Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in U.S. Hospitals (</vhf/ebola/hcp/patient-management-us-hospitals.html>)
- Interim Guidance for Monitoring and Movement of Persons with Ebola Virus Disease Exposure (</vhf/ebola/hcp/monitoring-and-movement-of-persons-with-exposure.html>)
- Interim Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transport, Testing, and Submission for Patients with Suspected Infection with Ebola Virus Disease (</vhf/ebola/hcp/interim-guidance-specimen-collection-submission-patients-suspected-infection-ebola.html>)

2014 West Africa Outbreak

More (</vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html>)

(</vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/index.html>)

The 2014 Ebola outbreak is one of the largest Ebola outbreaks in history and the first in West Africa. It is affecting four countries in West Africa: Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, but does not pose a significant risk to the U.S. public. CDC is working with other U.S. government agencies, the World Health Organization, and other domestic and international partners in an international response to the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa. CDC has activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to help coordinate technical assistance and control activities with partners. CDC has deployed several teams of public health experts to the West Africa region and plans to send additional public health experts to the affected countries to expand current response activities.

Latest CDC Outbreak Information (</vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/index.html>)

Updated August 21, 2014

What's New

August 19, 2014: [Interim Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals for Ebola Virus](/vhf/ebola/hcp/environmental-infection-control-in-hospitals.html) (</vhf/ebola/hcp/environmental-infection-control-in-hospitals.html>)

August 18, 2014: [Sequence for Putting On and Removing Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](/vhf/ebola/pdf/ppe-poster.pdf) [PDF - 2 pages] (</vhf/ebola/pdf/ppe-poster.pdf>)

August 14, 2014: [Guidance on Air Medical Transport for Patients with Ebola Virus Disease](/vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-air-medical-transport-patients.html) (</vhf/ebola/hcp/guidance-air-medical-transport-patients.html>)

August 13, 2014: [HAN 365: CDC Ebola Update #1](#)

(<http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00365.asp>)

August 12, 2014: [What CDC is Doing \(/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/what-cdc-doing.html\)](#)

What's New (Continued) (/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/whats-new.html)

Most Popular Materials

- Q & A on Ebola (/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/qa.html)
- Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Hospitalized Patients with Ebola (/vhf/ebola/hcp/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations.html)
- Virus Ecology Graphic (/vhf/ebola/resources/virus-ecology.html)
- Facts About Ebola Infographic [PDF - 1 page] (/vhf/ebola/pdf/infographic.pdf)

Useful Links

- World Health Organization's Epidemic and Pandemic Alert and Response (EPR) (<http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/dpc/epidemic-a-pandemic-alert-and-response/outbreak-news.html>)
- Guinea: Ebola epidemic declared, MSF launches emergency response (<http://www.msf.org/article/guinea-ebola-epidemic-declared-msf-launches-emergency-response>)

More (/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/guinea/index.html)

Information for Specific Groups

- Working and Living Abroad (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/abroad/working-living-abroad.html>)
- Healthcare Workers (/vhf/ebola/hcp/index.html)
- Airline Personnel (<http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/air/managing-sick-travelers/interim-guidance-ebola-virus-infection-airline-flight-crews-cleaning-cargo-personnel.html>)
- Travelers (<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/ebola>)

More (<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/abroad/index.html>)

File Formats Help:

How do I view different file formats (PDF, DOC, PPT, MPEG) on this site?

(<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/plugins/>)

(<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/plugins/#pdf>)

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National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) (/ncezid/index.html)

Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology (DHCPP) (/ncezid/dhcpp/index.html)

Viral Special Pathogens Branch (VSPB) (/ncezid/dhcpp/vspb/index.html)