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Ebola Information Overview

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with U.S. government agencies and other world public health partners to take active steps to respond to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Although the current outbreak does not pose a significant risk to the United States, CDC is taking precautions at home in addition to activities abroad. Only those who come in direct contact with individuals sick with Ebola are at risk.

Ebola is a rare but deadly disease spread through **direct** contact with blood and body fluids of a person who is sick with Ebola or through needles or other objects that have been contaminated with the virus. Ebola is **not** spread through the air or by water, or by food, in general.

Sign and symptoms of Ebola include fever, and severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, or bleeding or bruising. These signs and symptoms may appear between 2 and 21 days after exposure. A person infected with Ebola is contagious once symptoms appear.

No specific vaccine or medicine has been proven to cure Ebola. However, experimental treatments and vaccines for Ebola are currently under development.

For detailed information about Ebola including travel, please refer to [CDC Questions and Answers on Ebola](#).

A few U.S. healthcare workers who became sick with Ebola in West Africa, were transported back to the U.S. for treatment and have since recovered.

[Learn more general information](#) on Ebola.