Ebola

What Is Ebola?

Ebola virus causes viral hemorrhagic fever disease (also called Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever or Ebola Virus Disease), a severe, often fatal disease in humans. Ebola virus is a member of the Filoviradae family of viruses, which are lipid, appelened RNA viruses.

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Ebola virus was first identified in 1976 in Africa. To date, five subtypes of Ebola virus have been identified. The CDC has been working with medical and public health professionals across the United States and abroad to prepare and respond to any potential or confirmed Ebola cases.

The CDC provides a range of information about Ebola Virus Disease for healthcare professionals in U.S. settings, including guidance

on prevention, diagnosis and treatment,¹ how to screen and evaluate patients with suspected or confirmed cases,² and infection prevention and control.³

Symptoms and Treatment

Ebola is only contagious if the person is experiencing active symptoms of Ebola Virus Disease. Typical symptoms include: fever, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and unexplained hemorrhaging. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after contact with Ebola, but the average is 8 to 10 days.

No FDA-approved vaccine is available for Ebola Virus Disease prevention. However, a WHO study found that an experimental vaccine, rVSV-ZEBOV, can be highly protective against the virus. This vaccine is authorized for use under appropriate regulations—Investigational New Drug (IND) or Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

Basic treatment interventions, including intravenous provision of fluids and electrolytes; oxygen therapy; medication for management of blood pressure, vomiting and diarrhea, and fever and pain; and other infections, can improve the chances of survival. Currently, there is no antiviral drug licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatment of Ebola Virus Disease.

How Does It Spread?

Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with blood or body fluids, such as through broken skin or mucous membranes in the eyes, nose or mouth. The virus can also remain in some bodily fluids such as semen, even if the patient has recovered from the disease. Ebola is not transmitted through the air or water, and is generally not a foodborne illness.

Ebola is often spread through families and friends because they come in close contact with infectious secretions when caring for ill or deceased persons. Healthcare workers providing care for Ebola patients are also at risk for getting sick.

During outbreaks of Ebola, the disease can spread quickly within healthcare settings (such as a clinic or hospital) if hospital staff and other workers do not wear, improperly put on, or remove personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks, gowns, and gloves.

The CDC recommends monitoring exposed people for symptoms for 21 days.

What Should Be Done to Help Reduce the Risk?

Healthcare workers are advised to use isolation and infection control procedures, including standard, contact, and droplet precautions. Specific recommendations include isolating the patient, wearing appropriate PPE, restricting visitors, and avoiding aerosol-generating procedures.

Healthcare workers who may be exposed to people with Ebola should follow these steps: Wear protective clothing, including masks, gloves, gowns, and eye protection. Practice proper infection control and sterilization measures. Isolate patients with Ebola from other patients. Notify health officials if you have had direct contact with blood or body fluids, such as but not limited to, feces, saliva, urine, vomit, and semen of a person who is sick with Ebola.



CLOROXPRO

Clorox Products for Use on Hard, Non-Porous Surfaces Against Ebola Virus

Three Clorox products carry EPA-approved claims against Ebola virus. These and many other Clorox products also comply with CDC guidance, which recommends that facilities use EPA-registered disinfectants with label claims for non-enveloped viruses to disinfect environmental surfaces in settings contaminated with known or suspected Ebola virus and follow use directions for the non-enveloped virus or viruses.

EPA-Registered to Kill Ebola Virus

CloroxPro[™]

Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes EPA Reg. No. 67619-31 75 ct. Canister, Lemon Scent, Item No. 15948 75 ct. Canister, Fresh Scent, Item No. 15949 700 ct. Bucket, Fresh Scent, Item No. 31547



Clorox[®] Clean-Up[®] Disinfectant Cleaner with Bleach EPA Reg. No. 67619-17 32 oz. Trigger Spray, Item No. 35417 128 oz. Refill, Item No. 35420



Clorox[®] Germicidal Bleach EPA Reg. No. 67619-32 64 oz. Bottle, Item No. 31009 121 oz. Bottle, Item No. 30966



EPA-Registered to Kill Non-Enveloped Viruses (as recommended by the CDC for Ebola)





1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ebola (Ebola Virus Disease). Atlanta, GA. Available at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html Accessed 25 July, 2019.

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