

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Office Administration

(269) 673-5411

Bioterrorism Preparedness

673-5411

Personal Health

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Communicable Disease

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Environmental Health

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Resource Recovery

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Ebola

What is Ebola?

Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a rare and often deadly disease in both people and nonhuman primates (monkeys, gorillas, chimpanzees) that has caused sporadic outbreaks in Africa. Although the risk of Ebola spreading to the United States is very low, CDC and its partners are taking actions to prevent this from happening.

How is Ebola spread?

Ebola is spread through **direct** contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with

- Blood and body fluid (such as urine, feces, saliva, vomit, sweat, and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola.
- Objects (like needles) that have been contaminated with the blood or body fluids of a person sick with Ebola.

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

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of Ebola include:

- Fever (100.4 F or 38 C)
- Severe headaches
- Muscle pain
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Stomach pain
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising.

The time from exposure to when signs or symptoms of the disease appear (the incubation period) is 2 to 21 days, but the average time is 8-10 days. A person infected with Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear. **Because the early symptoms of Ebola are often similar to other commonly occurring illness, assessment of recent travel or contact to a person sick with Ebola is essential.**

How is Ebola treated?

Supportive therapy for symptoms is provided while the patient is kept in strict isolation until he or she has recovered. There is no FDA-approved vaccine available for Ebola.

More information is available at www.cdc.gov/ebola

This fact sheet is not intended to replace the advice of your physician. Parents should contact their healthcare provider if they have concerns regarding their child's health. If you have general questions, you may contact an Allegan County Public Health Nurse at 269-673-5411.