

# What You Should Know About the Ebola Virus



## *Why are we concerned about the Ebola virus?*

Ebola is a rare and often deadly disease that affects humans and some animals (bats, monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees). Ebola is caused by a virus and usually found in certain parts of Africa. Although we have had a handful of cases in the United States, the risk of getting the virus is extremely low.

## *How is the virus spread?*

Ebola is not spread through the air, by water, or in general, by food. The virus can enter your body through broken skin or through the eyes, nose, or mouth. You can only get Ebola by directly touching:

- Blood or body fluids (like urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, and semen) from a person sick with Ebola
- Objects (like needles and syringes) that have been contaminated with the virus

## *What are the symptoms of Ebola?*

Ebola can spread to others after the symptoms begin. Symptoms can appear from 2 to 21 days after coming in contact with an infected person and may include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Muscle pain
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising

**For more information:** [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola)



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