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## EBOLA DISEASE OUTBREAK IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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#### 1. What is Ebola?

[Ebola disease](#) is caused by an infection with one of several orthoebolaviruses, which are mostly found in sub-Saharan Africa. There are 4 types of orthoebolaviruses that cause illness in people. Ebola disease was first identified in 1976 after an outbreak in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Since then, these viruses have periodically emerged from an unknown animal host and infected people in several African countries.

#### 2. What is the risk to people in the United States?

There are currently no cases of Ebola disease in the United States and the risk of this outbreak spreading to United States is low at this time. The viruses that cause Ebola disease pose little risk to travelers or the American public.

Healthcare providers and family members caring for someone with Ebola disease without proper infection control methods have the [highest risk of infection](#).

#### 3. What are the symptoms of Ebola Disease?

[Symptoms of Ebola disease](#) may appear 2 to 21 days after contact with the virus. On average, people begin showing symptoms 8 to 10 days after exposure. People with Ebola disease may experience "dry" symptoms early in the course of illness. These symptoms may include fever, aches, pain, and fatigue. As the person becomes sicker, the illness typically progresses to "wet" symptoms and may include diarrhea, vomiting, and unexplained bleeding.

#### 4. How dangerous are Ebola viruses?

Death rates vary from about 25-90% depending on the type of orthoebolavirus and if supportive care is available. Bundibugyo virus has had 2 previous outbreaks, 1 in Uganda (2007) and 1 in DRC (2012), with death rates of 25% and 50%, respectively.

## 5. What is the treatment for Ebola Disease?

Bundibugyo virus has no approved treatments. People have a [much better chance of surviving](#) if they receive supportive care early like fluids; medicines for their symptoms like high blood pressure, fever, and vomiting and diarrhea; and treatment for other infections if they occur while sick with Ebola disease.

There are two FDA-approved treatments for Ebola disease caused by the *Orthoebolavirus zairense* species. The other orthoebolaviruses, like Bundibugyo, do not have approved treatments.

## 6. Can you prevent Ebola Disease?

People in the United States and travelers have a very low risk of getting infected with Ebola.

In areas where Ebola disease is occurring, healthcare workers and people caring for others with Ebola disease without proper infection control methods have the highest risk of infection. If you're living in or traveling to areas where the viruses that cause Ebola disease occur, you can [take steps to protect yourself](#):

- Avoid contact with body fluids from people and animals.
- Wear [protective equipment](#) if you come in contact with people who are sick or have died from Ebola disease, their blood and body fluids, or objects covered with their blood or body fluids.

The FDA-approved vaccine to prevent one type of Ebola disease (species *Orthoebolavirus zairense*) is not considered effective for the 2026 outbreak caused by Bundibugyo virus (*Orthoebolavirus bundibugyoense*).

## 7. Does Ebola spread person to person?

Yes. [People can get Ebola disease](#) through contact with the body fluids of an infected, sick or dead person. A person is only contagious once they begin showing symptoms. You cannot get Ebola from simply being near someone or passing them in public spaces because it doesn't spread through the air.

## 8. How Many cases and deaths are from the outbreak?

Case counts change daily. Visit [Ebola Disease: Current Situation](#) for the latest information.

## 9. What travel restrictions have been put into place, and where can I get more information?

On May 18, CDC, the Department of Homeland Security, and other appropriate federal agencies took [proactive public health measures to prevent Ebola](#) from entering the United States. More information about enhanced travel security measures is available below:

[What Travelers Need to Know About Returning to the United States from DRC, Uganda, and South Sudan](#)

[Interim Guidance: Public Health Assessment and Management of Travelers Arriving from the Affected Countries during the 2026 Ebola Outbreak](#)

[Ebola Disease: After You Travel](#)