

About Ebola

Ebola virus disease (EVD), is a rare but severe disease caused by infection with an Ebola virus.

The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history and is currently affecting three countries in West Africa. In the United States, a handful of cases have been reported, all of which originated in West Africa or are linked to cases that originated there. The CDC and public health agencies along with other partners are taking precautions to prevent the further spread of Ebola within the United States.

Signs and Symptoms

- Fever (greater than 38.6°C or 100.4 °F)
- Severe headache
- Muscle pain, weakness
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal (stomach) pain
- Unexplained hemorrhage (bleeding or bruising)

Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure, but the average is 8 to 10 days.

Transmission

Ebola can be spread only when infected person has symptoms. A person would be exposed only if, through breaks in his or her skin or splashes to eyes, nose or mouth, they have direct contact with these body fluids from an ill person:

- Blood Saliva Urine Feces Semen Vomit

Ebola is **NOT** spread through

- Infected people without symptoms Air Water Food

Risk to Airline Crew and Passengers

- Ebola does NOT spread through the air like flu
- If a passenger or airline crew member is showing symptoms of Ebola, public health officials and/or medical personnel may board the aircraft to evaluate the ill person and may provide:

- Public health announcements to read aloud to passengers
- Travel health alert notices to traveler or crew about exposure to an ill traveler
- Locator Forms to fill out for contact information
- Airlines have authority to deny boarding of travelers believed to have serious contagious diseases (*by rule of the U.S. Department of Transportation rule: 14 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 382*)

Prevention

There is no FDA-approved vaccine available for Ebola. Screening procedures are in place at airports in countries where Ebola outbreaks are occurring, and at U.S. airports where most travelers from West Africa arrive. Travelers are required to respond to a health questionnaire, are observed for illness and have their temperature measured.

If you must travel to Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone, make sure to do the following:

- Practice careful hygiene. Avoid contact with blood and body fluids, or affected items.
- Avoid handling the body of someone who has died from Ebola.
- Avoid contact with bats, monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees; or blood, fluids or raw meat prepared from these animals.
- Avoid hospitals where Ebola patients are being treated. The U.S. embassy or consulate is often able to provide advice on facilities.
- After you return, monitor your health for 21 days and seek medical care immediately if you develop [symptoms of Ebola](#).

Related Contacts

srhd.org – Spokane Regional Health District

(509) 324-1500 (available 24 hours for health emergencies); Toll-free (888) 535-0597; TDD (509) 324-1464

spokaneairports.net – Spokane International Airport - (509) 455-6455

doh.wa.gov – Washington State Department of Health

Toll-free (800) 525-0127 (within Wash. state only); TDD users dial 711 for the Washington Relay Service

cdc.gov – U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Toll-free (800) CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)

who.int/en – World Health Organization