



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

August 8, 2014

Columbus Public Health &
Franklin County Public Health

What you need to know

The Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria currently has 1,711 cases and 932 deaths with onset of illness between March and August 2014. The current outbreak is the largest since Ebola was first identified in 1976. While no EVD cases have ever been acquired in the United States, cases could potentially be imported through exposure in countries currently experiencing the outbreak.

In outbreaks, Ebola virus is initially transmitted to humans through contact with infected wildlife. It is then spread person-to-person through direct contact with body fluids of infected humans. The incubation period is 2-21 days, most commonly 8-10 days.

Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3 mandates immediate reporting to public health of all suspected cases of viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF), including EVD, with or without laboratory confirmation, as well as isolation of cases until no longer infectious.

What to watch for

Fever, headache, myalgia, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite and hemorrhage in patients with onset of illness within 21 days of travel to Guinea, Liberia or Sierra Leone, as well as other EVD outbreak affected countries.

What you can do

Healthcare providers who suspect EVD should isolate the case in a single room with standard, contact and droplet precautions and report to Infectious Disease Reporting System (IDRS) immediately at 614.525.8888. Columbus Public Health & Franklin County Public Health will facilitate viral culture, PCR and serology at Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) for cases with fever $\geq 101.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ (38.6°C), clinically compatible illness and epidemiologic risk factors.

Who is at risk

High Risk Exposures

- Percutaneous or mucous membrane exposure to body fluids of EVD patient
- Direct care or exposure to body fluids of EVD patient without appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Laboratory processing of body fluids of confirmed EVD patients without appropriate PPE or standard biosafety precautions
- Participation in funeral rites which include direct exposure to human remains in the geographic area where the outbreak is occurring without appropriate PPE

Low Risk Exposures

- Household member or casual contact of EVD patient
- Patient care or casual contact without high risk exposure of EVD patients in healthcare facilities in EVD outbreak affected countries
- Direct unprotected exposure to primates, rodents or bats from EVD outbreak affected countries

To learn more

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever
<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

Ebola Virus Disease ~ Guidelines for Evaluation of Patients
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00364.asp>

Infectious Disease Reporting System
http://idrsinfo.org/alerts.php#ebola_14

What is this? [Learn more about this emergency notification system.](#)

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