



INFORMATION ON EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

- *Actively monitoring the status of the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa including analyzing information about the first Ebola case diagnosed in the U.S.*
- *Statewide distribution of guidance for testing and assessment of suspect Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) to healthcare providers including hospitals, laboratories and medical providers.*
- *Those with recent travel history to the affected regions and are experiencing symptoms should contact a healthcare provider.*

Update—October 4, 2014 at 12 PM:

The Florida Department of Health is working in consultation with the CDC to analyze on a case by case basis whether testing for Ebola is necessary. The Department's Bureau of Public Health Laboratories has the capacity to conduct preliminary Ebola testing. There is currently no case from Sarasota County being tested.

Key Information

- Staff at each of the 67 County Health Department's has regular communication and interaction with hospitals, medical providers and laboratories to ensure appropriate reporting and public health action is taken when necessary.
- Those with recent travel history to the affected regions who are experiencing symptoms, such as fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea and vomiting should clearly state their travel history to the medical professional who is evaluating them.
- If a patient with EVD were to be diagnosed in Florida, the Department would work closely with healthcare partners to ensure appropriate patient care, protocols for isolation, infection control and risk assessment.
- The Department works regularly with healthcare providers across the state.

Ebola

- Previously known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, Ebola is a rare and often fatal viral disease.
- Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is one of the Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers.
- Infection is caused by one of five identified virus strains and occurs in humans and nonhuman primates such as monkeys, gorillas and chimpanzees.

Symptoms

When infection occurs, symptoms usually begin abruptly. Symptoms of EVD typically include:

- Fever, headache, joint and muscle aches

- Weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain
- Lack of appetite

Some patients may experience the following:

- Rash, red eyes
- Hiccups, cough, sore throat
- Chest pain
- Difficulty breathing and swallowing
- Bleeding inside and outside of the body

Severe forms of the disease may include hemorrhagic symptoms including bleeding or the abnormal flow of blood and multi-organ dysfunction, leading to shock and possible death. The most common occurrence of signs of infection is 8 to 10 days, while symptoms may appear 2 to 21 days after exposure.

Transmission

When an infection does occur in humans, there are several ways in which the virus can be transmitted to others. These include:

- Direct contact with the blood or secretions of an infected ill person
- Exposure to an object, for example a needle, contaminated with infected secretions
- Participation in funeral rites that includes direct exposure (contact) to human remains in the geographic area where the outbreak is occurring

EVD is often spread through close contact with infectious secretions when caring for ill persons. In order for the virus to be transmitted, an individual would have to have direct contact with an individual who is currently experiencing symptoms or with their bodily secretions.

Information Resources:

- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\): Ebola](#)
- [The World Health Organization \(WHO\): Ebola](#)
- [WHO and CDC Guidelines for managing Ebola](#)

Fact Sheets and Frequently Asked Questions:

- [Ebola Fact Sheet \(DOH\)](#)
- [Ebola Fact Sheet \(CDC\)](#)
- [Ebola FAQs \(CDC\)](#)

Other Materials:

- [Ebola Flyer \(CDC\)](#)

Videos:

- [Ebola Virus Disease \(DOH\)](#)