



Ebola Outbreak 2014

Ebola virus disease is a severe, acute viral illness. The outbreak currently occurring is affecting five countries in West Africa: Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Senegal. The 2014 outbreak is the largest in history. As of September 16, 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports there have been 4,985 cases and 2,461 deaths.

Symptoms of Ebola infection include a sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache, and sore throat. These are followed by vomiting, diarrhea, rash, impaired liver and kidney functions, and in some cases, both internal and external bleeding. People remain infectious as long as their blood and body fluids contain the virus. The incubation period is from 2 to 21 days after exposure.

At this time no vaccine is available. Treatment consists of supportive therapy and usually involves rehydration with electrolytes and intravenous fluids.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention currently does not feel that this outbreak poses a significant risk to the United States, but travel restrictions are being imposed in and out of some African countries. Please consult the following link for additional information on travel advisories: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>.