



What is Ebola?

Ebola – previously known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever – is a severe, often fatal disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is leading the effort to prevent the further spread of Ebola in the U.S. where currently, there have been one imported case from Liberia and two associated locally acquired cases in healthcare workers reported. Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) officials understand the public's concern around Ebola and while the risk of Ebola spreading in the U.S. remains very low our agency is working closely with the Illinois Department of Public Health, our regional partners and local hospitals to ensure that we and our partners are prepared to address Ebola.

What is CCDPH doing about Ebola?

- Providing guidance to suburban Cook County (SCC) healthcare systems on the evaluation and case management of suspect and confirmed cases of Ebola to reduce the chance of transmission and limit the potential spread of the disease.
- Performing the primary function of public health, which is to monitor for the spread of disease and intervene to eliminate the risk of transmission to the public through routine surveillance and working closely with state and other local health officials.
- Providing updates to our residents via the media, our website www.cookcountypublichealth.org and social media at Facebook/CCDPH and Twitter/CookCoHealth.

Remember:

Ebola is not airborne. A person infected with Ebola cannot pass it to others until symptoms appear. The people most at risk of contracting Ebola are healthcare workers, families and friends who come into close contact with the blood or body fluids of people infected with Ebola.

How is Ebola spread?

Ebola is not spread through the air, water, or food. Ebola is spread through **direct** contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with:

- Blood or body fluids (like urine, feces, saliva, vomit, breast milk and semen) from a person sick with Ebola.
- Objects (like clothes, bedding, needles, or medical equipment) contaminated with the blood or body fluids from a person sick with Ebola.

What are the signs and symptoms of Ebola?

It takes 2 to 21 days for symptoms to appear from the time of exposure. Signs of Ebola include: fever (higher than 101.5°F) and symptoms like severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, or unexplained bleeding or bruising.

Who is at risk of contracting Ebola?

The people most at risk of contracting Ebola are healthcare workers, families and friends who come into close contact with the blood or body fluids (see above) of people infected with Ebola.

How is Ebola treated?

There is no FDA-approved vaccine available for Ebola. Experimental vaccines and treatments for Ebola are under development, but they have not yet been fully tested for safety or effectiveness.

This fact sheet provides basic information about Ebola. For more detailed information, please visit www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola.