

Ebola and Marburg fevers

Ebola and Marburg haemorrhagic fevers are caused by the Ebola and Marburg virus respectively, both belonging to the same virus family. Both are rare diseases, but have the potential to cause high death rates. There are five species of the genus Ebolavirus (Filoviridae family): Zaire ebolavirus, Sudan ebolavirus, Reston ebolavirus, Tai Forest ebolavirus and Bundibugyo ebolavirus.

Ebola virus disease is not an airborne disease and only symptomatic patients are contagious. Transmission requires direct contact with blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of dead or living infected persons or animals. Therefore the risk of infection is considered very low if precautions are strictly followed.

Clinical illness starts as a flu-like syndrome, rapidly evolving to severe disease with bleedings. No treatment or vaccine is available for either disease.



Ebola outbreak in West Africa

An outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) has been ongoing in West Africa since December 2013, affecting Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. The overall situation of the Ebola outbreak in the affected countries remains critical. The increasing number of healthcare workers that have been infected by the Ebola virus is a major cause for concern. On 8 August 2014, WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

More on the [Ebola outbreak](#)

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RISK ASSESSMENTS

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Infection prevention and control measures for Ebola virus disease: Entry and exit screening measures 13 Oct 2014

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Rapid risk assessment: Outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Guinea 24 Mar 2014

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Communicable Disease Threats Report
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