



EBOLA INFORMATION FOR FRONTLINE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

16 November 2022

EBOLA DISEASE OUTBREAK CAUSED BY SUDAN EBOLAVIRUS, UGANDA 2022

Ebola viruses can cause a severe and often fatal haemorrhagic disease in humans (Ebola disease). There is currently an outbreak of Ebola disease in Uganda.

The risk to Australia is very low.

Australia is well prepared and the risk of importation to Australia is very low. Health professionals should be alert to the possibility of Ebola disease in unwell travellers from Uganda.

For currently affected areas refer to:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/emergency-events/item/2022-e000372>

IF YOU SUSPECT YOUR PATIENT HAS EBOLA DISEASE

- obtain a full travel and exposure history
- isolate the patient and restrict entry to the isolation room
- immediately notify the Infection Control service and the hospital executive for your hospital and follow their directions
- **Urgently** notify by phone your local public health unit/communicable disease unit with information on symptoms, illness onset, travel dates and travel activities/locations

EBOLA VIRUSES

There are six species of Ebolavirus, four of which have caused Ebola disease in humans. *Zaire ebolavirus* has been associated with several large outbreaks in the past. There are specific treatments and vaccines available for *Zaire ebolavirus*. *Sudan ebolavirus* has also been associated with large outbreaks. Trials are underway, but there are currently no available treatments or vaccines for *Sudan ebolavirus*.

EBOLA DISEASE CAN SPREAD THROUGH

- **Close contact with infected patients**
- **Direct exposure to bodily fluids** such as blood, saliva, breast milk, faeces, urine and sweat of an infected person or animal, alive or dead, including participating in traditional burial ceremonies in affected areas.

- Transmission of Ebola viruses can still occur via body secretions after clinical recovery, including **having unprotected sexual contact** with infected people up to 12 months after recovery.
- **Hunting, handling or eating of 'bushmeat'** in affected areas

SYMPTOMS

The **incubation period for Ebola disease is 2 to 21 days**. Early symptoms include sudden onset of **fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat**. Later symptoms include **vomiting and diarrhoea, confusion, bruising, rash, cough** and **collapse**. In some cases, it can affect liver and kidney function and cause **internal and external bleeding**.

For further information see: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/ebola-resources>