Ebola is caused by infection with a virus of the family Filoviridae, genus EbolaVirus. There are five identified Ebola virus species, four of which are known to cause disease in humans. Ebola viruses are found in several African countries. Ebola was first discovered in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Before the current situation, outbreaks have appeared sporadically in Africa.

The natural reservoir host of Ebola virus remains unknown. However, on the basis of evidence and the nature of similar viruses, researchers believe that the virus is animal-borne and that bats are the most likely reservoir. Four of the five virus strains occur in an animal host native to Africa.


**SYMPTOMS**

- Headache and Fever
- Sore Throat and Vomiting
- Fatigue, Internal Bleeding and Diarrhea
- Blisters, Bruising and Rash
- Muscle Pain and Weakness

Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans. Transmitted via contact with the body fluids of an infected person. A person is only infectious when showing symptoms.

After exposure it can take between 2 and 21 days before an infected person shows symptoms of the illness.

No vaccine or cure currently exists. Trials of several experimental treatments are ongoing.

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**Key Components of Standard, Contact, and Droplet Precautions Recommended for Prevention of Ebola Virus Disease Transmission in U.S. Hospitals**

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**


- PAPR or N95 Respirator.
- Single-use (disposable) fluid-resistant or impermeable gown that extends to at least mid-calf or coverall without integrated hood.
- Single-use (disposable) nitrile examination gloves with extended cuffs.
- Single-use (disposable), fluid-resistant or impermeable boot covers that extend to at least mid-calf or single-use (disposable) shoe covers.
- Single-use (disposable) fluid-resistant or impermeable shoe covers are acceptable only if they will be used in combination with a coverall with integrated socks.
- Single-use (disposable), fluid-resistant or impermeable apron that covers the torso to the level of the mid-calf should be used if Ebola patients have vomiting or diarrhea.

**Patient Care Equipment**

- Dedicated medical equipment should be used for the provision of patient care
- All non-dedicated, non-disposable medical equipment used for patient care should be cleaned and disinfected according to manufacturer’s instructions and hospital policies.

**Hand Hygiene**

- HCP should perform hand hygiene frequently, including before and after all patient contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before putting on and upon removal of PPE, including gloves.
- Healthcare facilities should ensure that supplies for performing hand hygiene are available.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Are there special instructions for cleaning and disinfecting the room of a patient with suspected or confirmed Ebola virus infection?**

   Daily cleaning and disinfection of hard, non-porous surfaces (e.g., high-touch surfaces such as bed rails and over bed tables, housekeeping surfaces such as floors and counters) should be done. Before disinfecting a surface, cleaning should be performed. In contrast to disinfection where products with specific claims are used, any cleaning product can be used for cleaning tasks. Use cleaning and disinfecting products according to label instructions. Check the disinfectant’s label for specific instructions for inactivation of any of the non-enveloped viruses (e.g., norovirus, rotavirus, adenovirus, poliovirus) follow label instructions for use of the product that are specific for inactivation of that virus. Use disposable gloves, gowns, gloves, mitts, gowns, and gowns. Use disposable products: disposable gowns, gowns, mops, cloths, and wipes and dispose of these in leak-proof bags. Use a rigid waste receptacle designed to support the bag to help minimize contamination of the bag’s exterior.

2. **How should spills of blood or other body substances be managed?**

   The basic principles for blood or body substance spill management are outlined in the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen Standards (29 CFR 1910.1030). CDC guidelines recommend removal of bulk spill material, cleaning the site, and then disinfecting the site. For large spills, a chemical disinfectant with sufficient potency is needed to overcome the tendency of proteins in blood and other body substances to neutralize the disinfectant’s active ingredient. An EPA-registered hospital disinfectant with label claims for non-enveloped viruses (e.g., norovirus, rotavirus, adenovirus, poliovirus) and instructions for cleaning and decontaminating surfaces or objects soiled with blood or body fluids should be used according to those instructions.

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Kerr TotalCare™ has a family of EPA registered surface disinfectants that can be used to disinfect non-porous surfaces.

Although there are no products with specific label claims against the Ebola virus, enveloped viruses such as Ebola are susceptible to a broad range of hospital disinfectants used to disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces. In contrast, non-enveloped viruses are more resistant to disinfectants. As a precaution, selection of a disinfectant product with a higher potency than what is normally required for an enveloped virus is being recommended at this time. EPA-registered hospital disinfectants with label claims against non-enveloped viruses (e.g., Norovirus, Rotavirus, Adenovirus, Poliovirus) are broadly antiviral and capable of inactivating both enveloped and non-enveloped viruses.


**CaviCide™ ordering information**

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<th>Quantity</th>
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<td>14-024</td>
<td>CaviCide™ (24 ounce spray)</td>
<td>2 bottles (case)</td>
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<td>14-053</td>
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<td>14-055</td>
<td>CaviCide™ (5 gallon)</td>
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**CaviWipes™ ordering information**

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<td>14-129</td>
<td>CaviWipes™ mini packet</td>
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**HELPFUL TIPS**

**AVOID DIRECT CONTACT WITH INFECTED PEOPLE**

**GO TO HOSPITAL WHEN INFECTION IS SUSPECTED**

**PRACTICE PROPER INFECTION CONTROL & STERILIZATION MEASURES**

**WEAR APPROPRIATE PPE**

**WASH WITH SOAP & WATER**

**USE ALCOHOL-BASED HAND RUBS**