

# Ebola Virus Disease

**Ebola Virus Disease** (formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever) is a severe, often fatal illness, with a death rate of up to 90%. The illness affects humans and nonhuman primates (monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees) and the disease was first identified in 1976 in two simultaneous outbreaks, one in a village near the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the other in a remote area of Sudan.

The infection is transmitted by direct contact with the blood, body fluids and tissues of infected animals or people.

The incubation period of the disease is 2 to 21 days and the disease is often characterized by the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat. This is followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and in some cases, both internal and external bleeding. Laboratory findings include low white blood cell and platelet counts and elevated liver enzymes.

Persons who have similar symptoms and have travelled to African countries such as Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in the past 3 weeks are kindly advised to inform their doctors regarding their travel history.

Read more Fact Sheet-

[http://epid.gov.lk/web/attachments/article/146/Ebola\\_hemorrhagic\\_fever\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://epid.gov.lk/web/attachments/article/146/Ebola_hemorrhagic_fever_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

Read more FAQs –

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/faq-ebola/en/>