

EBOLA (Ebola Virus Disease)

Ebola virus causes a severe and often deadly disease in humans and other mammals such as bats, monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas and antelopes. The virus is transmitted to humans through contact with the organs or body fluids of ill or dead wild animals. Person to person spread of the infection is through direct contact with blood and body fluids (urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk and semen) of a sick or dead person, and objects contaminated with the virus.

The incubation period of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is 2-21 days and symptoms include fever, malaise, muscle pain, severe headache, vomiting, diarrhea, the disease can be transmitted only when symptoms begin and for the duration of the illness. In past outbreaks, case fatality had ranged from 25% to 90%. Vaccination and treatment regimes are currently in the clinical trial phase, and early results are very promising.

Prevention and control measures include: 1) Use of gloves and protective clothing when handling wild animal products and thoroughly cooking bush meat. 2) Hand washing and use of gloves and personal protective equipment when visiting or caring for ill or dead Ebola patients. 3) Practice of safe sex and hygiene for 12 months by male Ebola virus disease survivors.

For questions and more information, please contact the Brazos County Health District at **979-361-4440**

Further information on Ebola Virus Disease:

DSHS: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/ebola.aspx?terms=EBOLA>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

WHO: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ebola-virus-disease>