

EBOLA (7/28/14)

The following information is from the CDC and the WHO

Key Facts

- Ebola hemorrhagic fever is one of the numerous Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers. It is a severe disease and has a case fatality rate of up to 90%.
- Ebola first appeared in 1976 in 2 simultaneous outbreaks in Africa.
- The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
- The natural reservoir remains unknown. However, researchers consider the fruit bat as the most likely reservoir.
- When an infection does occur in humans there are several ways in which the virus can be transmitted to others
 - Direct contact with the blood or secretions of an infected person.
 - Exposure to objects (such as needles) that have been contaminated with infected secretions.
- Severely ill patients require intensive supportive care. No licensed specific treatment or vaccine is available for use in people or animals.
- Some who become sick with Ebola are able to recover, while others do not. The reasons behind this are not yet fully understood.

Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms typically include

Fever
Headache
Joint and muscle aches
Weakness
Diarrhea
Vomiting
Stomach pain
Lack of appetite

Some patients may experience

Rash
Red eyes
Hiccups
Cough
Sore throat
Chest pain
Difficult breathing
Difficulty swallowing
Bleeding inside and outside of the body

Diagnosis

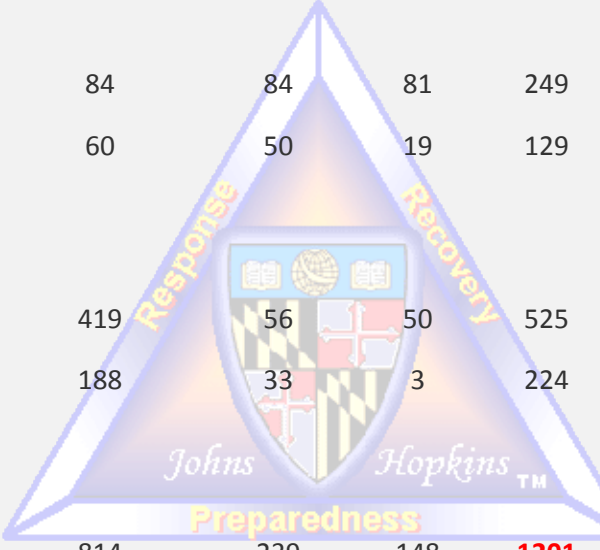
Other diseases that should be ruled out before a diagnosis of Ebola can be made include: malaria, typhoid fever, shigellosis, cholera, leptospirosis, plague, rickettsiosis, relapsing fever, meningitis, hepatitis and other viral haemorrhagic fevers.

Vaccine and Treatment

No licensed vaccine for Ebola is available. Several vaccines are being tested, but none are available for clinical use. Severely ill patients require intensive supportive care. Patients are frequently dehydrated and require oral rehydration with solutions containing electrolytes or intravenous fluids. No specific treatment is available. New drug therapies are being evaluated.

Number of cases from March 2014 through July 23, 2014

	New ¹	Confirmed	Probable	Suspect	Totals
Guinea					
Cases	12	311	99	17	427
Deaths	5	208	99	12	319
Liberia					
Cases	25	84	84	81	249
Deaths	2	60	50	19	129
Sierra Leone					
Cases	71	419	56	50	525
Deaths	5	188	33	3	224
Totals					
Cases	108	814	239	148	1201
Deaths	12	456	182	34	672



References

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/dpc/epidemic-a-pandemic-alert-and-response/outbreak-news/4233-ebola-virus-disease-west-africa-25-july-2014.html>

<http://www.afro.who.int/en/clusters-a-programmes/dpc/epidemic-a-pandemic-alert-and-response/outbreak-news.html>

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs103/en/>