

HOW EBOLA COMPARES

EBOLA IS SCARY; THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

But it's easy to let the panic and fear get out of hand. Here, we compare Ebola to three other deadly diseases that have plagued the world for many years, just to put the recent outbreak and deaths into perspective and perhaps to debunk a few myths. ■

FATALITY

EBOLA

4555
total deaths in 2014

HIV/AIDS

1.6 million
deaths per year*

* 36 million total deaths

INFLUENZA

36 thousand
deaths per year*

* From H1N1, a flu strain

RABIES

60 thousand
deaths per year

VIRAL SPREAD AND PROGRESSION

Hospitals must monitor patient showing signs of Ebola, along with everyone the individual came into contact with for at least **21 days***.

* Thomas Duncan died 8 days after he was diagnosed. A week later, the nurse who cared for him tested positive.

ACUTE INFECTION STAGE:

The virus attacks and destroys the immune system. **[2-4 weeks]**

CHRONIC HIV INFECTION:

HIV multiplies and advances to AIDs if not treated. **[10-12 years]**

AIDS:

People can survive up to **three years** without treatment.

People can be contagious before symptoms develop and up to **a week** after becoming sick. The virus can be spread from an individual who did not show symptoms.

If untreated, symptoms can progress to coma and death within **1-3 weeks**. Rabies not treated immediately almost always causes death*.

* In rare cases that people survive, they are usually left with severe brain damage.

TREATMENT

ZMAPP:

This is an **experimental treatment** that involves antibodies binding to the protein of the virus.

VACCINE:

NIH is currently doing phase 1 clinical trials for the Ebola vaccine.

Patients must take medicines to block action of enzymes that the virus needs to copy itself. There can be a **combination of three to five medications** in a treatment. However, there is no cure or vaccine; an individual is **infected for life**.

Antiviral medicines can treat or prevent the flu. Medicine does not eliminate symptoms but can reduce the severity and duration of symptoms by about a day.

Patient takes a dose of human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and 4-5 doses of **rabies vaccine*** given over a 2-week period.

* Vaccine has existed and been available for over 100 years.

COSTS

\$50 thousand
total ■

■ Based on Duncan's case

\$500 thousand
total

\$250
on recovery
\$35
for vaccine

\$1000
total