

## **WHAT IS EBOLA**

Ebola, first appeared in 1976 also known as Ebola virus disease (EVD) and Ebola hemorrhagic fever (EHF), is a viral hemorrhagic fever in humans and other primates, caused by ebolaviruses.

Symptoms typically start anywhere between two days and three weeks after becoming infected with the virus.

The disease kills between 25% and 90% of those infected about 50% on average.

Death is often due to shock from fluid loss, and typically occurs between six and 16 days after the first symptoms appear.

Fruit bats are believed to be the normal carrier in nature; they are able to spread the virus without being affected by it.

Control of outbreaks requires community engagement, including rapid detection, contact tracing of those exposed, care for those infected, and proper disposal of the dead through cremation or burial.

After a person recovers from Ebola, their semen or breast milk may continue to carry the virus for anywhere between several weeks to several months. Fruit bats are believed to be the normal carrier in nature; they are able to spread the virus without being affected by it.

As the virus spreads through the body, it damages the immune system and organs. Ultimately, it causes levels of blood-clotting cells to drop. This leads to severe, uncontrollable bleeding.

The disease was known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever but is now referred to as Ebola virus.