

# **Ebola Virus Disease**

## **August 8, 2014**

*[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

Ebola virus causes serious disease that can kill up to 9 out of 10 people with symptoms. The death rate in the current West African outbreak is about 6 out of 10 people. The outbreak has affected the countries of Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. The virus isn't new, but this is the largest Ebola outbreak in history and the first in West African countries. People living in the United States have almost no chance of getting Ebola. People who are infected can't pass the virus to someone else until symptoms appear. You can get Ebola by touching the vomit, blood, spit, sweat, pee, or poop of someone who is sick with or died from Ebola. You can also get Ebola by touching objects like needles that have been contaminated with the vomit, blood, spit, sweat, pee, or poop of someone who is sick with or died from Ebola. CDC advises people not to travel to Guinea, Liberia, or Sierra Leone unless absolutely necessary. Travelers to Nigeria should protect themselves by avoiding contact with the vomit, blood, spit, sweat, pee, or poop of people who are sick. If you must travel to any of these countries, we recommend that you take steps to protect yourself and others. You can find these steps on [CDC.gov](http://CDC.gov).

CDC Director, Dr. Tom Frieden:

*Ebola is a deadly disease and because it's so deadly, we have to take it seriously. It can be devastating. It can destroy not just the confidence in health care, but have huge social and economic impacts on society. In parts of Africa where we have dealt with Ebola for years, we are now much better able to control it. We find the cases quickly. We stop them quickly. We prevent the practices that may allow it to spread. That's what we will eventually be able to do here. The sooner we do it, the fewer people will die from it.*

CDC disease detectives and other staff are in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leon and other West African countries, tracking people with symptoms or people who've been close to people with symptoms. We are reminding U.S. healthcare workers how to recognize a person with Ebola symptoms and how to stop the spread to other people. We have given information to airlines about how to recognize and care for passengers and crew members who appear to have Ebola symptoms and how to clean airplanes if a sick person has been on board. CDC expects these actions to help control the spread of Ebola.

*For the most accurate health information, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.*