



EBOLA AND MARBURG VIRUS DISEASE

Ebola disease (Ebola) and Marburg disease (Marburg) are rare but serious illnesses caused by viruses.

WHAT ARE EBOLA AND MARBURG?

Ebola disease (Ebola) and Marburg disease (Marburg) are rare and severe viral hemorrhagic fevers caused by viruses (germs). These diseases were first found in Africa. In 2014, the largest Ebola outbreak in history occurred in West Africa and was caused by the Ebola virus (species Zaire ebolavirus). Currently, there is an ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, caused by the Ebola virus (species Bundibugyo ebolavirus), which began in May 2026.

HOW DO EBOLA AND MARBURG SPREAD?

A person can only spread Ebola or Marburg to others after they develop signs and symptoms of the disease. Ebola and Marburg viruses spread from person to person through direct contact with a patient's body fluids, such as saliva, blood, vomit, urine, feces, and sweat. The viruses enter the body through broken skin or mucous membranes (soft, moist areas in the nose, eyes, or mouth).

Ebola and Marburg viruses can also be spread through contaminated objects, like needles, that have been exposed to infected body fluids. Transmission can also occur after death, during the preparation of a body for burial or funeral.

Ebola and Marburg are **not** spread through casual contact, air, food, or water, but rather through direct contact with a symptomatic person, particularly in the later stages of illness. People with early symptoms are not highly contagious.

FIVE KEY POINTS:

1. The risk of becoming infected with Ebola and Marburg is very low in the U.S. and in Los Angeles (L.A.) County.
2. People with Ebola or Marburg can only spread the disease when they have symptoms.
3. A person must have direct contact with an infected person's body fluids to become infected.
4. To prevent the spread of Ebola or Marburg, avoid contact with anyone who is sick with these diseases.
5. Public Health is taking safety measures to prevent the spread of these viruses in LA County in the event a case were to occur.



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WHO IS AT RISK FOR EBOLA AND MARBURG?

The risk of contracting Ebola or Marburg in the general public is extremely low. Ebola and Marburg are not spread through casual contact with someone who has traveled to countries in Africa experiencing outbreaks. A person cannot spread Ebola or Marburg unless they are showing symptoms. Health care providers or family members caring for a person with Ebola or Marburg are at the highest risk because they may come into direct contact with blood or body fluids.



WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF EBOLA AND MARBURG?

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle and joint pain
- Sore throat
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Stomach pain
- Loss of appetite
- Weakness
- Fatigue
- Abnormal bleeding

HOW ARE EBOLA AND MARBURG TREATED?

There are two treatments approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for Ebola virus disease caused by Zaire ebolavirus in adults and children. These treatments are not approved for Ebola caused by Sudan ebolavirus or Bundibugyo ebolavirus, and their clinical benefit for those infections, if any, is not known. For Marburg virus disease, there is currently no approved specific treatment.

For both Ebola and Marburg, supportive care—such as providing fluids, administering supportive medications, and treating secondary infections—can improve the chances of survival. Experimental vaccines and treatments are in development, and safety and efficacy testing are ongoing.

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ARE THERE VACCINES TO PREVENT EBOLA AND MARBURG?

In the U.S., there is a vaccine approved for the Zaire ebolavirus species that is available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It is recommended as pre-exposure prophylaxis for individuals at potential occupational risk of exposure to Zaire ebolavirus (e.g., laboratorians working with Ebola virus and healthcare workers caring for Ebola patients at designated treatment centers). The vaccine has also been used to help control Ebola outbreaks in Africa. Currently, there is no approved vaccine for the Sudan ebolavirus or Bundibugyo ebolavirus species, or for Marburg virus.

WHAT SHOULD TRAVELERS TO EBOLA OR MARBURG AFFECTED AREAS DO?

The CDC issues travel notices to inform travelers and clinicians about health issues that may affect travelers, such as disease outbreaks. Please refer to the CDC website for more information, including guidance on how travelers can help prevent Ebola and Marburg.

WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH DOING TO PREVENT EBOLA AND MARBURG IN LA COUNTY?

To date, there have been no cases of Ebola or Marburg in LA County.

Public Health is following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for patients with concerning clinical findings and a travel history suggestive of Ebola, Marburg, or other viral hemorrhagic fevers.

We will continue to work with health care providers and hospitals to identify individuals with Ebola or Marburg and take safety measures to prevent further spread if a case were identified in LA County.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/viralhemorrhagicfevers/index.htm

California Department of Public Health

www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/EbolaVirusDisease.aspx

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/ebola/about/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/marburg/about/>

