

Ebola and Marburg Virus Disease (EVD & MVD)

Frequently Asked Questions

Five Key Points:

1. The risk of getting sick with Ebola and Marburg is very low in the U.S. and in LA County.
2. Ebola and Marburg patients can only spread the disease when they have symptoms.
3. A person must have direct contact with a patient's body fluids to be infected.
4. To prevent the spread of Ebola or Marburg, avoid contact with anyone who is sick with Ebola or Marburg.
5. If a case were to come to LA County, Public Health uses safety measures to prevent spread.

What are Ebola and Marburg?

Ebola virus disease (EVD) and Marburg virus disease (MVD) are rare diseases caused by viruses (germs). These diseases were first found in Africa. In 2014, the largest EVD outbreak (more disease than usual) in history was in West Africa caused by Ebola virus (species Zaire ebolavirus). In February 2021, outbreaks of Ebola virus disease (Zaire ebolavirus) were identified in the Guinea and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Currently, there is an ongoing MVD outbreak in Equatorial Guinea and Tanzania which began in February 2023 and March 2023, respectively.

How do Ebola and Marburg spread?

A person can only spread Ebola or Marburg to other people after they develop signs and symptoms of EVD or MVD. Ebola and Marburg spread from person-to-person by direct contact with a patient's body fluids, like saliva, blood, vomit, urine, feces, and sweat. The viruses get into the body through broken skin or mucous membranes (spongy-like skin you find in your nose, eyes, or mouth). Ebola and Marburg can also be spread by infected objects, like needles, that have been tainted with body fluids. Ebola and Marburg can also spread after death, when preparing the patient's body for burial.

Ebola and Marburg are not spread through casual contact, air, food, or water, but rather through direct person-to-person contact with persons in the later stages of the disease. People with early symptoms of Ebola or Marburg are not highly contagious.

Who is at risk for EVD and MVD?

The risk of catching Ebola or Marburg in the general public is extremely low. Ebola and Marburg are not spread by casual contact with someone who has traveled to countries in Africa with EVD or MVD 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 highest risk because they may come in direct contact with blood or body fluids.

What are the symptoms of Ebola and Marburg?

Headache	Stomach pain	Sore throat
Vomiting	Joint pain	Diarrhea
Muscle pain	Weakness	Abnormal bleeding
Fever	Loss of appetite	



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How are Ebola and Marburg treated?

There are two treatments approved by FDA to treat Ebola, species Zaire ebolavirus, in adults and children. They are not approved for treatment of species Sudan ebolavirus, and their clinical benefit for that disease, if any, is not known. For Marburg, there is no specific treatment.

For EVD and MVD, supportive care, such as providing fluids, supportive medications and treating other infections can help to improve chances of survival. Experimental vaccines and treatments are in development, and safety and efficacy testing are ongoing.

Are there vaccines to prevent EVD and MVD?

In the U.S. there is a vaccine approved for the Zaire ebolavirus species. It is only available through the CDC and is recommended as pre-exposure prophylaxis vaccination for specific persons who are at potential occupational risk of exposure to Zaire ebolavirus (e.g. laboratorians working with Ebola virus, healthcare workers caring for EVD patients at designated Ebola treatment centers). The vaccine has been used to control EVD outbreaks in Africa. Currently there is no approved vaccine against the Sudan ebolavirus species or Marburg virus.

What should travelers to Ebola or Marburg affected areas do?

CDC issues travel notices to inform travelers and clinicians about current health issues that may impact travelers' health such as disease outbreaks. Please refer to [CDC website](#) for more information including how travelers can prevent EVD and MVD.

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 Los Angeles (LA) County. Public Health is working closely with the CDC and with the California Department of Public Health to monitor the health of travelers who have been in countries most affected by EVD and MVD outbreaks. We will continue to work with healthcare providers and hospitals to identify persons with EVD or MVD and take safety measures to prevent further spread if a case were to be identified in LA county.

For More Information:

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/ebola.htm

California Department of Public Health
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/EbolaVirusDisease.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/about.html

