

HEB

A review on *Ebola virus*

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Abstract: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is caused by the Ebola Virus, an RNA virus that was first identified in 1976. Ebola virus has been associated with epidemics in Africa and is capable of causing severe disease in humans. The outbreak in 2014 in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia is the largest in history and is by far the most severe Ebola outbreak since its discovery. By the end of September 2014 the number of cases reported in the West African epidemic exceeded the total of all previously reported EVD cases combined.

Ebola virus spreads in humans as a result of direct contact with blood or body fluids from an infected symptomatic person, contact with the body of a person who is recently victim of EVD, or Through exposure to objects that have been contaminated with infected body fluids or secretions.

Individuals who are not symptomatic are not contagious. EVD transmission requires direct contact with a symptomatic patient or their body fluids.

Since there is a no specific treatment outside of supportive management and palliative care, containment of this potentially lethal virus is paramount. In almost all outbreaks of EVD, the fatality rate among health care workers with documented infections was higher than that of non-health care.

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