EVD Manifestations: Sudden onset of high fever, not responding to recommended anti-malarial treatment where no other valid cause of fever is obvious and at least 3 of the under listed symptoms

- Intense tiredness and weakness
- Headache
- Muscle and joint pains
- Hiccups
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea and vomiting
- Painful throat and difficulty in swallowing
- Abdominal pain

- Chest pain
- Painful swollen testes
- Rash
- Confusion and irritability
- Unexplained bleeding
- Red eyes
- Abortion or miscarriage amongst pregnant women
- Shock
- Death
1. Virus reservoir: Fruit bats

The virus maintains itself possibly in fruit bats. The bats spread the virus during migration.

Infected fruit bats possibly enter in direct or indirect contact with other animal and pass on the infection, sometimes causing large-scale epidemic in gorillas, chimpanzees and other monkeys or mammals (e.g. forest antelopes).

2. Epizootic in primates

3. Primary human infection

Humans are infected either through direct contact with infected bats (rare event), or through handling infected dead or sick animals found in the forest (more frequent).

4. Secondary transmission

Secondary human-to-human transmission occurs through direct contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other body fluids of infected persons. High transmission risk when providing direct patient care or handling dead bodies (funerals).
How does Ebola Spread?

• Human to human transmission occurs through direct contact with blood (and other body fluids) and tissues of the person with the disease.

• Transmission occurs ONLY when the infected person is sick or develops symptoms. The period between infection and symptoms varies from 2 - 21 days.

• Community spread mostly occurs when relatives & friends:
  i. take care of the sick and
  ii. prepare the body for burial
Who Are Those At Risk?

High Risk Persons

• Health workers
• Families of cases and those in close contact
• Mourners who come in contact with bodies of the deceased. *The corpse of the Ebola patient is highly infectious*
• Hunters

The risk for the general public is low. Please spread this information to your friends & neighbours
Important Action Points for ALL in an Outbreak

The actions every lay (non-health) individual needs to take relate to the recognition of two states namely:

- The Alert Ebola Case
- The Ebola Contact
The Alert Case is a person who has an illness with fever not responding to the usual treatment of common fevers such as malaria. OR Unexplained bleeding from any source OR Died suddenly

Appropriate Action: Report the Alert Case to the surveillance/response team.
The Contact

Any person without symptoms who in the last 21 days has had contact in at least one of the following ways:

- Slept in the same household with an Ebola patient
- Direct physical contact with a case during the illness (dead or alive)
- Direct physical contact with (dead) case at the funeral
- Touched the blood or other body fluids of a case
- Touched the clothes/linen of the Ebola patient
- Breast fed by an Ebola patient
...The Contact

• Direct contact with specimens from suspected Ebola patient or animal cases
• Direct contact with sick or dead animals
• Direct contact with the animal’s blood or body fluids
• Eaten raw bush meat

Appropriate Actions:

• Report to the response team
• Must be observed closely for 21 days following exposure for early detection & prompt medical help
• If symptomatic at any time SHOULD seek proper medical treatment and prevent contact with other people.
Stop the Outbreak: Everyone’s Responsibility

- The Ebola virus is fragile; it succumbs easily to bleach (chlorine 2.5% solution), heat, sunlight, soaps and detergent. **Meticulous hand washing is very important.**

- Be vigilant and take appropriate actions when exposed or an Alert Case has been identified.
Community spread occurs mostly when friends & relatives take care of loved ones ill from Ebola infection

- When a relative is suspected or confirmed to have Ebola virus disease explain the importance of proper medical treatment **AND AVOID CONTACT** with the patient’s body fluids:
  - blood, urine, excreta,
  - body sweat, breast milk, semen,
  - spit, vomitus,
  - droplets emitted while the patient is talking, coughing or vomiting
The corpse of the Ebola patient is highly infectious

- Adopt safe funeral practices
- Invite and allow the Outbreak Response Team to assist the family in giving a befitting burial to the dead without undue risk to loved ones left behind
Public Threats

• Contacts avoiding medical observation
• Refusal of medical treatment when Ebola virus disease is suspected
• Hiding of persons suspected to have Ebola virus disease
• Unsafe funeral practices
• Handling or eating of dead wild animals
Remember

• Simple precaution is needed
• Hand washing with soap and water with bleach is essential
• If a case is suspected:
  ▪ Do not panic.
  ▪ Maintain minimal contact with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.
  ▪ Contact the Response Team.
  ▪ Wait for evacuation.
The risk for the general public is low; Prevention of the spread of the epidemic is possible when we all take responsibility; Please let people know.