

Information about the Ebola Virus

The health and safety of our students is a top priority of Volusia County Schools. Therefore, when issues of concern are brought to our attention, we feel it is important to share information with parents, staff and the community.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Ebola and what are the symptoms of illness?

Ebola is a rare and severe disease caused by infection with the Ebola virus. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola but the average is 8 to 10 days. Signs and symptoms of Ebola typically include: fever (greater 101.5°F), severe headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain and unexplained bleeding or bruising.

How is Ebola spread?

A person infected with Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear. The virus can only be spread through bodily fluids; it is **not** spread through the air, water or food.

How does someone become infected with Ebola?

There are several ways the virus can be spread to others. These include:

- directly touching blood or body fluids (including but not limited to feces, saliva, urine, vomit and semen) of a person who is sick with Ebola
- directly touching objects (like needles) that have been contaminated with the blood or body fluids a person who is sick with Ebola or infected animals

Who is at greatest risk of exposure?

Healthcare providers caring for Ebola patients and the family and friends in close contact with Ebola patients are at the highest risk of getting sick.

What can I do to protect myself?

Currently there are no specific vaccines or medicine (such as antiviral drugs) that have been proven to be effective against Ebola.

This information was compiled from Center for Disease Control (CDC) resources. For more information, visit the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola, contact your family physician or call the Volusia County Health Department, Epidemiology Program, at (386) 274-0634.