



Town Hall: Ebola Virus



U.S. Army Ebola Virus Update

An outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) has affected people in four countries in Western Africa (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria) since its first detection in March of this year. This is the largest outbreak of EVD ever recorded, and EVD cases continue to outpace treatment unit and staff capacity.



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VIDEO

wmv: http://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/EVD_Outbreak_V5_WMV_720p.wmv

mov: http://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/EVD_Outbreak_V5_MOV_360p.mov

mp4: http://phc.amedd.army.mil/PHC%20Resource%20Library/EVD_Outbreak_V5_MP4_720p.mp4



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Risk Mitigation Strategy

- 1: Prepare (educate Army about EVD)
 - Town Hall, Medical Threat Brief, USAPHC Video, Information sheet
- 2: Protect (risk mitigation strategies)
 - Personal Protective Equipment, Rules of Engagement
- 3: Family Member education
 - Town Halls, USAPHC Video, Information sheet
- 4: Redeployment processes
 - Ensure Soldiers and Civilians are healthy upon reintegration



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- **Key Facts about Ebola Virus Disease (EVD):**

- EVD is preventable. People can avoid exposure with good personal hygiene practices and using appropriate protective equipment
- EVD is transmitted from person to person by direct contact with the blood or other body fluids of EVD patients
- Only people who are sick with EVD (i.e., have symptoms), or who have recently died from Ebola, can transmit the virus to others
- There are currently no licensed vaccines or specific treatments for EVD. Patients who sought care soon after symptoms began have survived with only supportive care.
- Ebola is not spread through drinking water, eating approved food, or being bitten by insects like mosquitoes or ticks.
- Just being in a country where people are ill with EVD is not dangerous.



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Our mission is to provide support in the areas of:

- Engineering (such as building medical treatment centers)
- Logistics (such as providing supplies and equipment to help local health care workers successfully take care of Ebola patients)
- Training for local health care workers to help them better take care of their patients while protecting themselves from possible infection

We have not directed US military personnel to provide direct medical care to Ebola patients.



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- Plans to protect Deploying Soldiers & DoD Civilians:
 - All personnel will be trained and validated to perform their assigned mission tasks
 - All personnel will receive a Medical Threat Brief for West Africa prior to deployment. This will educate all personnel about protecting themselves from threats to health and safety in West Africa, not just Ebola.
 - All personnel will receive training on the wear and use of appropriate Personal Protection Equipment
 - All personnel will receive a Pre-deployment Health Assessment
 - Answer questions and concerns
 - Ensure immunizations are up-to-date
 - Address any ongoing medical issues



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- During and After Deployment
 - Soldiers will be monitoring their own health while deployed, along with unit leaders and medical personnel who will regularly check Soldiers to ensure they remain healthy
 - Additional screening for EVD, other diseases, and behavioral health will be an important part of the post-deployment process
 - Soldiers will not return home until they've been fully evaluated and cleared



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Questions?



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Additional Resources:

U.S. Army Public Health Command –

<http://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/discond/diseases/Pages/EbolaVirusDisease.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention –

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>

World Health Organization –

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>