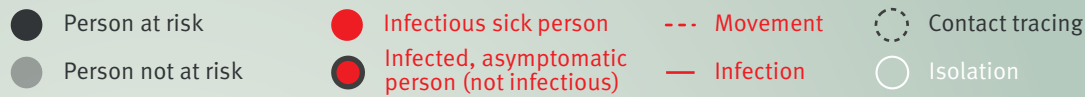


How does Ebola spread?



Reservoirs

Bats and other wild animals are the suspected reservoirs of Ebola.

1 Transmission to humans

Infected bushmeat is brought to the villages by hunters.

2 Only symptomatic people are infectious

The incubation period can range between two and 21 days. People are infectious as long as their blood and bodily fluids contain the virus.

3 Hospitals as amplifiers

When infectious people who enter a hospital are not cared for under strict infection control measures, hospitals can become a major amplifier of the disease.

4 Unsafe burial practices

Funerals where mourners touch the deceased are one of the main amplifiers for spreading the virus.

5 Strict protocols

Vigorous hospital infection control measures are applied in designated Ebola treatment units.

1 Seeking medical help

People who have been exposed to Ebola or have symptoms should seek medical care immediately.

2 Safe burial practices

All contact with the bodies of those who died from Ebola is avoided. Prompt and safe burial of the dead minimises the risk of infection.

3 Contact tracing

Identifying and following-up those who had contact with an ill person is essential to curb the spread of the disease.

4 Medical equipment

Doctors and nurses wear sterilised protective clothing, such as gloves, masks, gowns and eye shields, and are trained in the safe donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) of protective gear.

How can it be stopped?

The control of the outbreak relies on breaking the chain of transmission through containment measures and changing people's behaviour.