



EBOLA: Democratic Republic of Congo (Bas-Uélé) Outbreak – May 2017

As of 12 May 2017, through the confirmation from the Minister of Public Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), The World Health Organization (WHO) declared “an outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Likati health district (Aketi, Bas-Uélé province), more than 1300 kilometers from Kinshasa in the northern DRC” after a specimen had tested positive for Ebola virus.

Ebola is a viral infection spread through direct person to person contact with an infected person or their body fluids (saliva, semen, blood).

Symptoms of Ebola may appear 2 to 21 days after exposure but the average is 8-10 days. They include: fever, severe headache, muscle pain, weakness, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and unexplained bleeding or bruising.

Precautions to take include: avoid contact with blood or fluids of persons diagnosed with or suspected of having Ebola; practice careful hygiene; do not handle items that may have come in contact with an infected person’s blood or body fluids; avoid funeral or burial rituals that require handling the body of someone who has died from Ebola; avoid contact with bats and nonhuman primates or blood, fluids, and raw meat prepared from these animals; avoid facilities where Ebola patients are being treated; avoid contact with semen from men who have had Ebola until you know Ebola is gone from his semen.

After returning from an Ebola area, monitor your health for 21 days and seek medical care immediately if you develop symptoms of Ebola. If working with patients proven or suspected of having Ebola, personal protective equipment (hazmat suit style) should be imperative. This includes face shields, goggles, long sleeve gloves and water proof aprons or suits.

Sources:

[The World Health Organization](#), 12 May 2017

[BBC News](#), 12 May 2017

[Reuters](#), 12 May 2017