

Ebola Virus Disease

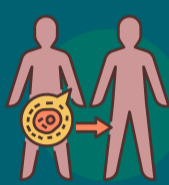
There is an ongoing Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Uganda, caused by the Sudan ebolavirus strain. The first case of the outbreak was confirmed on September 19, 2022.

As of November 13, 2022, there are **140** confirmed cases and **55** deaths recorded in Uganda. No cases have been reported outside Uganda and the World Health Organization (WHO) considers the risk of international spread as low.

There is no effective vaccine for EVD.

Important to know

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) medical staff should be aware that:



Human-to-human transmission

occurs through contact with the blood and body fluid of a patient, or the body of one who died from EVD. There are also reports of transmission through sex and breastfeeding.



Symptoms of EVD include

sore throat, fever, headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, internal and external bleeding. Keep in mind that EVD symptoms may be similar to those of malaria, typhoid fever and meningitis.



A detailed travel history is needed

to determine if the patient had been to Uganda or has been in contact with someone who traveled to Uganda.



Laboratory testing

is through the BCCDC for rapid malaria testing for suspected cases of EVD. The National Microbiology Lab can test for the Ebola virus Sudan strain. Medical staff planning to conduct lab testing are to contact the Medical Microbiologist to coordinate approval and specimen transport

Prevention and management

- Appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE) (e.g. face protection, gown, gloves and face mask) is to be used when providing care for patients with suspected EVD and while handling potentially contaminated objects, including the body of a dead EVD patient.
- Appropriate PPE donning and doffing procedures must be followed. If you need to arrange a refresher, please let us know.
- A [risk assessment algorithm](#) for patients with suspected EVD is available.
- The patient is to remain on contact and droplet precaution until EVD is ruled out.
- For isolation procedures for a person under investigation for EVD, see the [Provincial Health Officer's recommendations](#).

Whom to notify

Confirmed or suspected cases of EVD are reportable under the Public Health Act. Medical staff are to notify their Medical Health Officer and Infection Control unit immediately when a suspected case of EVD is encountered.

Feel free to contact mPOSH.vch@ubc.ca if you have questions.

Additional resources

1. Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet). Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) - Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations. Published October 26, 2022. Available at:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/picnet_memo_-_ebola_virus_disease_oct_27_2022_final.pdf

2. World Health Organization (WHO). Ebola Virus Disease in Uganda SitRep – 49. Published October 31, 2022. Available at:

<https://www.afro.who.int/countries/uganda/publication/ebola-virus-disease-uganda-sitrep-40>

3. World Health Organization (WHO). Ebola Virus Disease Factsheet. Published February 23, 2021. Available at:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ebola-virus-disease>