



# EBOLA Frequently Asked Questions

## PATIENT AND VISITOR EDUCATION

**At this time, we have not received any patients with Ebola.**

The risk of an Ebola outbreak in the U.S. is very low. Infection occurs only after having direct, unprotected contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with Ebola. Body fluids include: urine, saliva, feces, vomit, sweat and semen. There have been no cases of Ebola in Michigan.

### **What is Ebola?**

Ebola is a disease caused by a virus. Ebola can cause severe disease and death. Almost all current outbreaks of Ebola are now isolated to two West African countries: Guinea and Sierra Leone. When infection occurs, symptoms usually begin right away.

### **How does someone get Ebola?**

- The Ebola virus passes from one person to the next through direct contact with blood or body fluids of an infected person or a deceased Ebola patient.
- The virus can also pass through direct contact with objects, such as needles, that have been infected by blood or body fluids of a person with Ebola.
- Ebola does not pass through food or water or air.
- People who do not have symptoms of the disease do not pass the virus and do not infect others.

### **What are the Signs & Symptoms?**

Most people experience flu-like symptoms including fever, headache, joint/muscle aches and weakness followed by diarrhea and vomiting.

### **Who is at risk?**

If you returned from the West African countries of Guinea or Sierra Leone within the last 3 weeks and you have a fever or any of the other symptoms mentioned above, go to the Emergency Room immediately. The medical team will assess you for Ebola.

### **What is the treatment for Ebola?**

Early diagnosis and timely treatment of Ebola is very important for good outcomes. Treatment includes supportive therapy, such as providing IV fluids, balancing electrolytes, maintaining oxygen levels and blood pressure, and treating other infections if they occur. Experimental vaccines and other treatments for Ebola are under development.

### **Prevention**

Currently there is no FDA-approved vaccine for Ebola virus. Following CDC guidance, the U-M Health System is working to keep our patients safe by being prepared and being able to quickly identify patients who might have the Ebola virus.

**For more information, visit [www.uofmhealth.org/ebola](http://www.uofmhealth.org/ebola)**