

Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers Update

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Discussion Topics

- Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs)
- A tale of two travelers
- High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) Team
- Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers in Texas
- Current Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Texas Readiness



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DISCLAIMER

The information presented today is based current preliminary data and on CDC's recent guidance. Information is subject to change.

October 9, 2025

Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers



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Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers

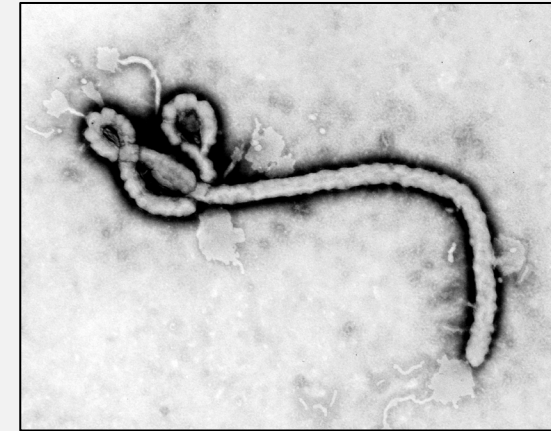
- Viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs) are a group of illnesses caused by multiple distinct families of viruses.
- Generally, affect several of the body's organ systems, damage the cardiovascular system, and impact the body's ability to function independently.
- VHFs include:
 - Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)
 - Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)
 - Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)
 - Lassa Fever (LF)
 - Chapare Hemorrhagic Fever (CHHF)
 - Lujo Hemorrhagic Fever (LUHF)
 - Bolivian Hemorrhagic Fever (BHF)

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/about/index.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.



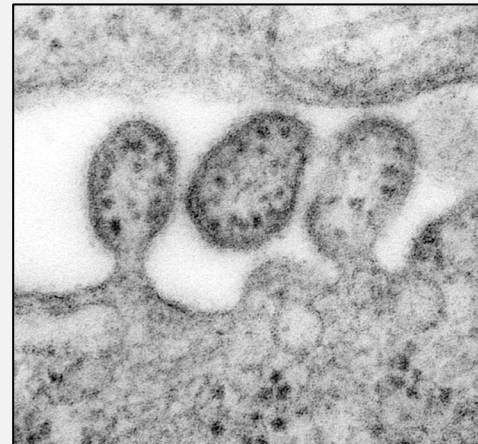
Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus (Bunyavirales)

Source available at: https://ictv.global/report_9th/RNAneg/Bunyaviridae, accessed on 10/7/2025.



Ebola virus (Filovirus)

Source available at: <https://phil.cdc.gov/Details.aspx?pid=1181>, accessed on 10/7/2025.



Lassa fever virus (Arenavirus)

Source available at: <https://phil.cdc.gov/Details.aspx?pid=8699>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

VHF Symptoms

These viruses can cause mild to severe illness, including the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle or joint pain
- Weakness and fatigue
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Chest pain
- Skin rash
- Red eyes
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Encephalitis
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising

The incubation period is generally 2 to 21 days from infection to symptom onset.



Source: Stephen L. White. 2015.

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ebola/signs-symptoms/index.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ebola/about/index.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Other VHF Characteristics

- Symptoms often not indicative of the disease
- Generally transmitted from animals, but can spread person-to-person
- All are biosafety level 4 agents
- Regulated under the Federal Select Agent Program
- Rare to non-existent in the United States
- Testing is not commercially available
- All are reportable conditions
- High visibility and public awareness



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VHF Reporting Requirements

- Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 97 requires suspect and confirmed cases of the following conditions be reported to the local health authority or the appropriate DSHS regional epidemiology office:
 - Smallpox
 - Viral hemorrhagic fever
 - Any outbreak, exotic disease, or unusual group expression of diseases that may be of public health concern



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Available at: [https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?\\$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=09%2F02%2F2025&recordId=221983](https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=09%2F02%2F2025&recordId=221983), accessed on 10/7/2025.

A Tale of Two Travelers



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A Tale of Two Travelers



Source available at: www.google.com/maps, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Traveler #1 experienced fever, muscle aches, and headache 8 days after returning.

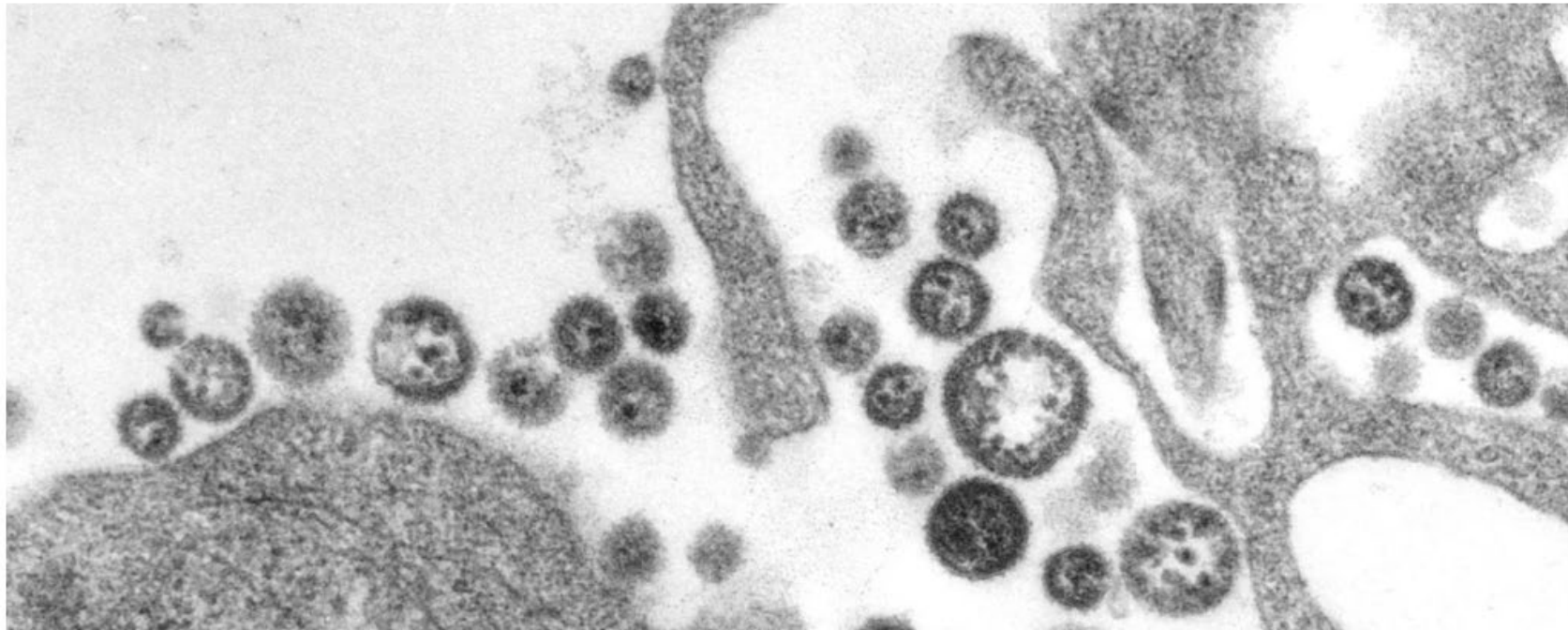
Traveler #2 experienced fever, muscle aches, and nausea 9 days after returning.

Iowa resident dies of rare Lassa fever, officials say



By Jen Christensen, CNN

🕒 2 minute read · Published 7:48 PM EDT, Mon October 28, 2024

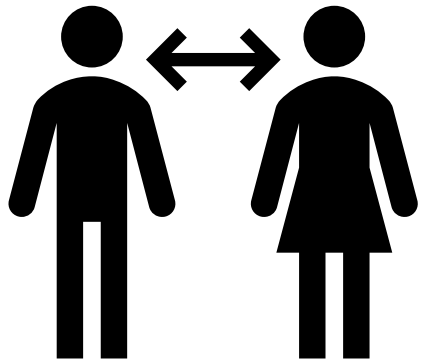


Traveler #1 tested **positive** for Lassa fever on Day 21 and dies the same day.

Traveler #2 tested **negative** for Lassa fever on Day 16 and begins to recover.

Source available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2024/10/28/health/lassa-fever-case-iowa/index.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Iowa's Response to Lassa Fever



180 total contacts

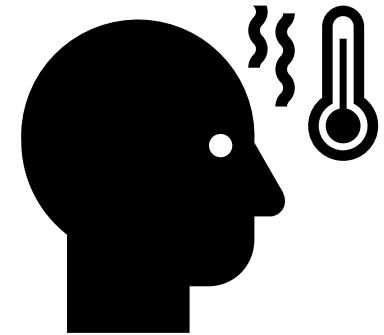
**105 classified as
high-risk**



3 hospitals

3 EMS units

6 laboratories



43 reported symptoms

**5 transported
and tested**

DSHS High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) Team



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DSHS Key Responsibilities

- Provide subject matter expertise on and situational awareness of HCID conditions
- Coordinate clinical consultation with CDC
- Coordinate epidemiological surveillance across the state
- Conduct state-level analyses and reporting
- Assist public health regions and local health departments in identifying and responding to HCID cases
- Coordinate traveler monitoring



Traveler Monitoring

- Historically, traveler monitoring is recommended by the CDC based on several criteria:
 - Size and scope of the outbreak
 - Volume of air travel
 - Public health measures
- Outbreak areas are designated by the CDC and may change over time.



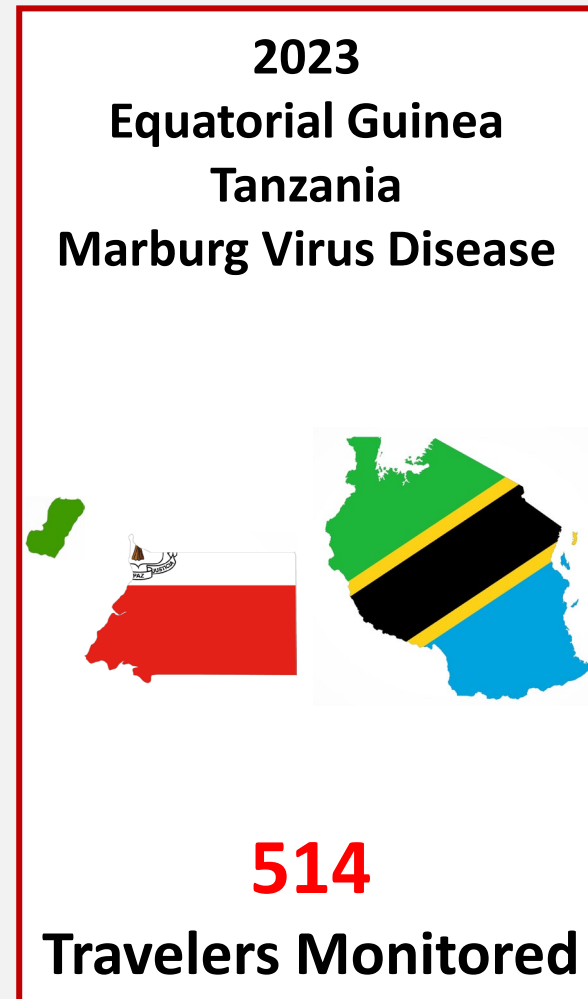
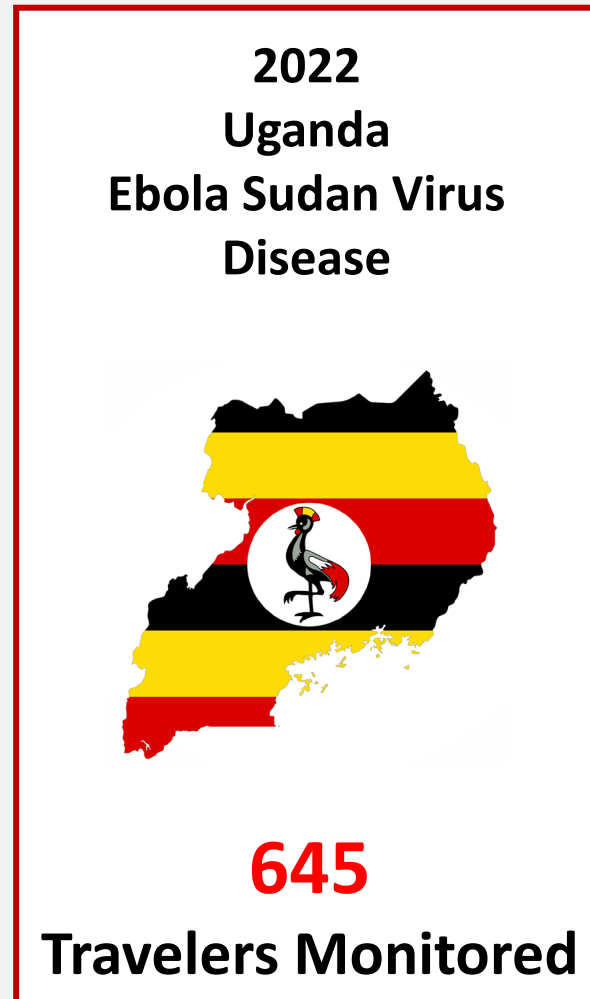
Available at: <https://www.cnn.com/2014/10/08/health/ebola-us-airport-screening/index.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Traveler Monitoring

- Traveler monitoring aims to identify ill travelers as soon as possible to allow for rapid isolation and evaluation.
- Categorizes traveler based on risk of **exposure**
 - Focused on epidemiological factors
- Daily, twice weekly, or weekly contact with traveler for 21 days.¹
- Travel restrictions recommended only for high-risk exposures
- Monitoring strategies may vary from one outbreak to another.

¹The maximum incubation period of most VHF is 14 to 21 days.

Traveler Monitoring in Texas (2022 - September 2025)



There have been no confirmed cases of VHF in Texas from 2022 to September 2025.

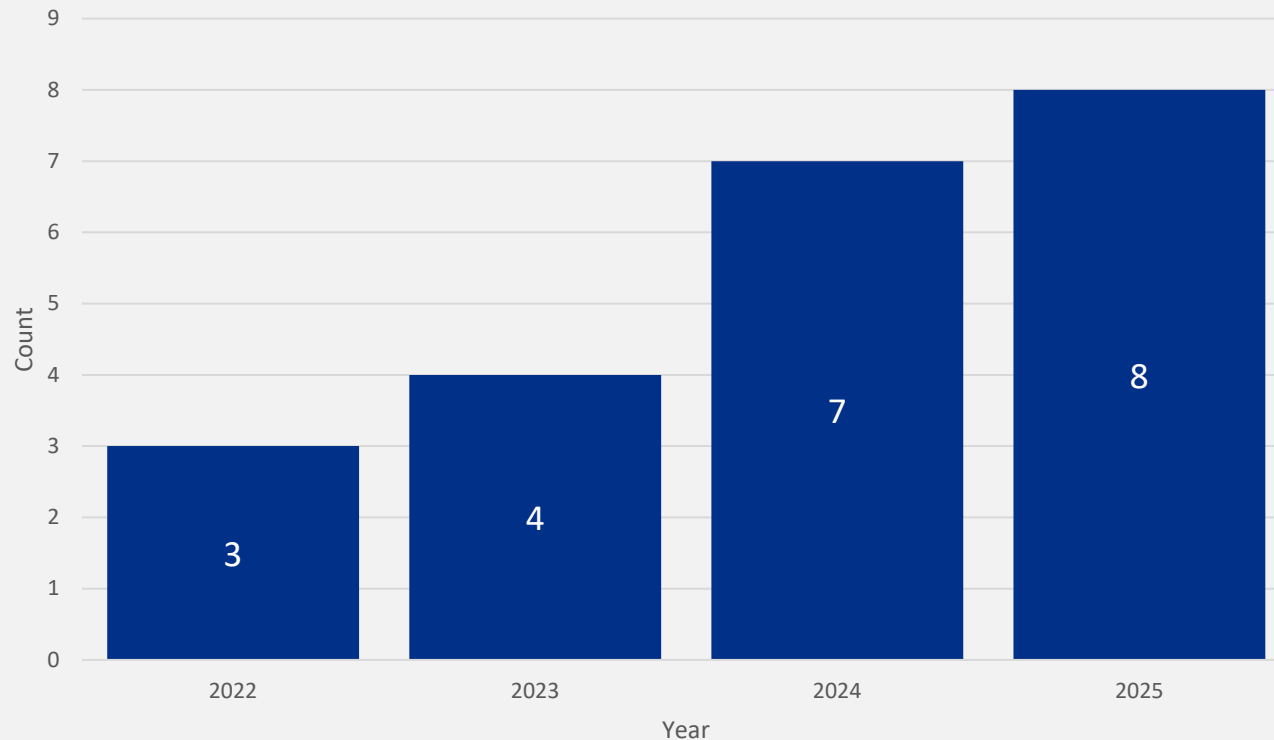
Patients Under Investigation

- The HCID Team helps public health regions and local health departments evaluate and coordinate testing for patients that meet epidemiological and clinical criteria for VHFs.
- Involves evaluating the available epidemiological and clinical details of the case.
- Works closely with the DSHS Infectious Disease Medical Officer.
- Often use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for additional guidance.

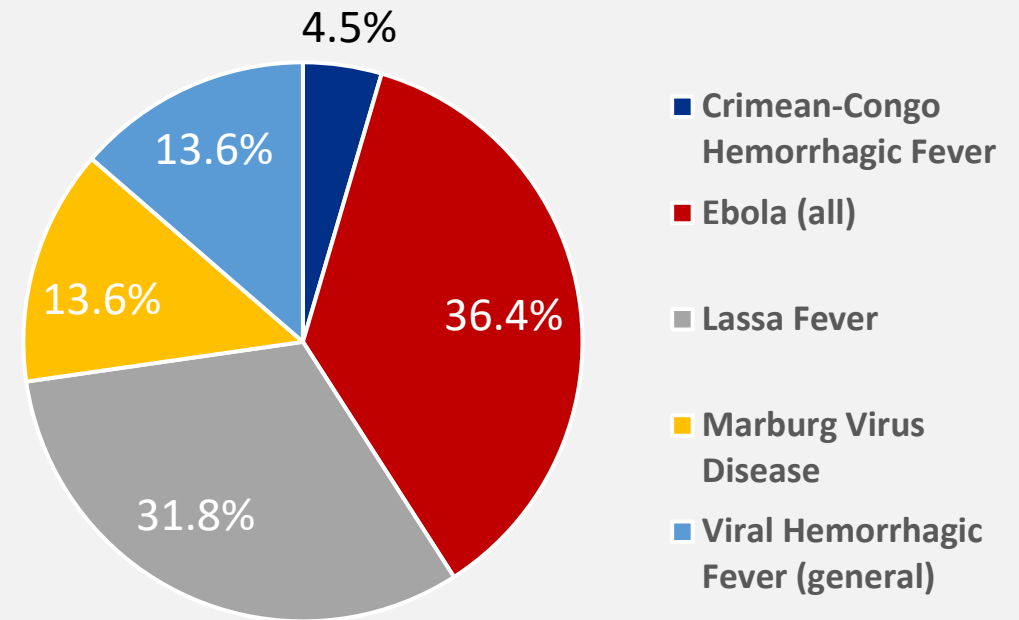


VHF Patients Under Investigation in Texas (2022 - September 2025)

Patients Under Investigation
2022 to September 2025
Texas



Patients Under Investigation
2022 to September 2025
Texas



Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers in Texas



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2014-2016 Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

- Primarily affected Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone
- 28,610 cases
 - 11,308 deaths
 - 39% case fatality rate
- 36 cases across 7 countries
- 11 cases were treated in the United States

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ebola/outbreaks/index.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

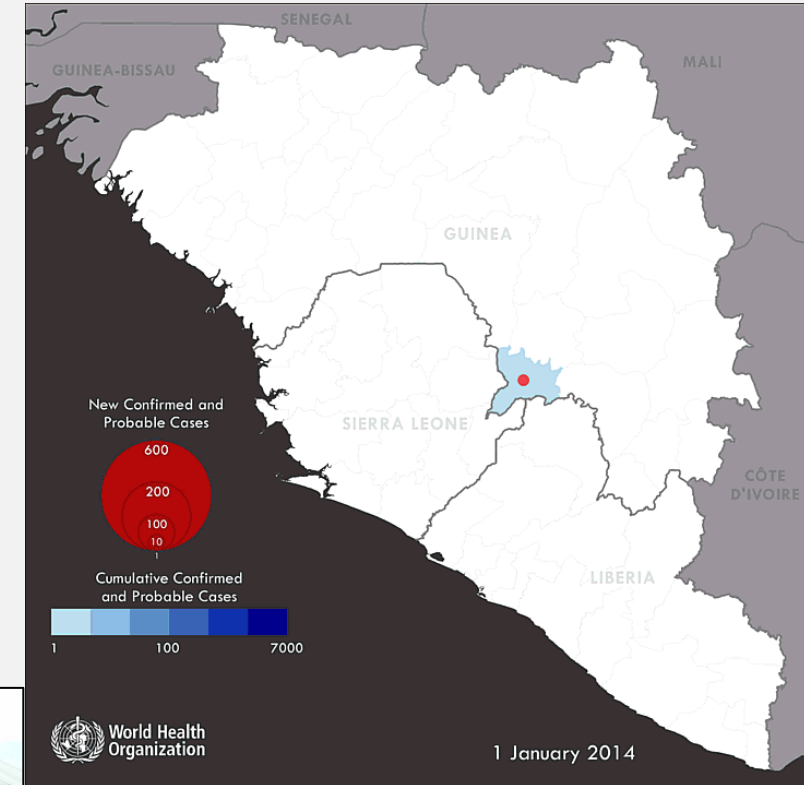
Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/impact/historic-ebola-response.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.



Source: Stephen L. White. 2015.



Source: Stephen L. White. 2015.



Available at:

<https://www.weforum.org/stories/2017/04/strengthening-africa-s-first-line-of-defence-against-pandemics/>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

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Patient tests positive for Ebola in Dallas

—

A patient at a Dallas hospital has tested positive for the deadly Ebola virus.

Available at: <https://www.kvue.com/article/news/health/patient-tests-positive-for-ebola-in-dallas/269-310039526>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

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Austin lab tested Dallas blood sample for Ebola

—

Officials say a man who traveled from Africa to Dallas is in isolation after being diagnosed with Ebola.

Available at: <https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/texas/austin-lab-tested-dallas-blood-sample-for-ebola/285-259176348>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

≡
TIME
SUBSCRIBE

HEALTH • EBOLA

Second Texas Health Care Worker Tests Positive for Ebola

Available at: <https://time.com/3509685/ebola-texas-dallas-case/>, accessed on 10/7/2025.



DallasCity
NEWSROOM.COM

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Sana Syed - Public Information Office
(214) 846-0519
Sana.Syed@DallasCityHall.com

City of Dallas Animal Services to Begin Monitoring Bentley's Specimen for Ebola

Available at: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/TXDALLAS/bulletins/d6ce6a>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Texas Ebola Response 2014

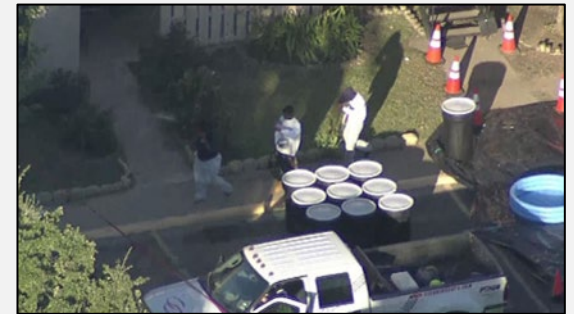
- 3 Ebola cases in September and October 2014
 - First cases of Ebola contracted in the United States
 - 342 individuals monitored (9/28-11/7/2014)
- 1,511 travelers monitored
 - 29 some risk
 - 0 high risk
- 37 patients tested



Available at: <https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/action/Pages/Ebola-Zaire-APHL-Actions-in-US-and-Internationally.aspx>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Challenges

- Ground Transportation
 - EMS awareness and risk
 - PPE
 - Decontamination
- Pets
 - Dallas Nurse's small dog
 - 21-day quarantine
 - Texas A&M vet providers
- Waste Management
 - Decontamination of residence
 - Finding a contractor
 - Biohazard disposal
- Fatality Management



Current Situation - The Democratic Republic of the Congo



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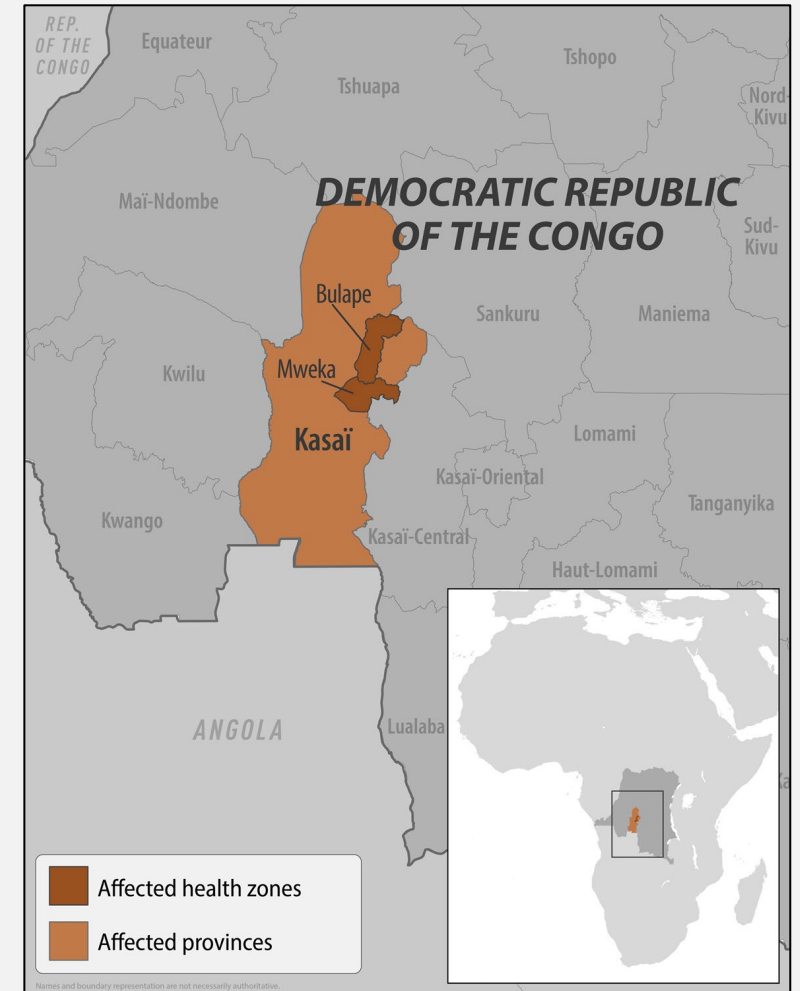
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Current Ebola Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- Declared on September 4, 2025
- 16th Ebola outbreak in the DRC
 - 2 previous outbreak in this area
 - 2008: 32 cases
 - 2007: 264 cases
- As of September 28, 2025:
 - 64 confirmed/probable cases
 - 42 deaths
 - 65.6% case fatality rate
- Traveler monitoring is not currently recommended

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ebola/situation-summary/index.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ebola/outbreaks/index.html>, accessed on 10/7/2025.



Available at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level1/ebola-democratic-republic-of-the-congo>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Texas Readiness



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Partners in Preparedness and Response

- The HCID Team works closely with federal, state, and local partners, including:
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response
 - Laboratory Response Network
 - DSHS Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
 - DSHS public health regions
 - Local health departments
 - University of Texas Medical Branch
 - Healthcare facilities



Available at: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/laboratory-services/programs-laboratories/emergency-response/emergency-response-laboratory-response>, accessed on 10/7/2025.

Infectious Disease Response Unit (IDRU)

- IDRU is a statewide High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) response capability able to augment regional efforts with personnel and personal protective equipment (PPE). It is part of the EMTF program.
- Consists of **TWO** types of teams
 1. **Pre-hospital Transport Team** provides EMS transport and transfer support
 - Ambulances
 - Medical and Command personnel
 2. **Hospital Augmentation Team** provides hospital support through:
 - Personnel
 - Medical personnel
 - Logistics personnel
 - PPE & supply caches
 - 24-Hour hospital support caches located in each of the 8 EMTF regions
 - 72-Hour hospital support caches located in 4 EMTF regions: Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, El Paso
 - 7-10 Day hospital support cache located in San Antonio



UTMB Bio-Containment Unit (BCU)

- BCU is part of the Special Pathogens Excellence in Clinical Treatment, Readiness & Education program (SPECTRE) at UTMB.
- Developed to support the role of the Regional Emerging Special Pathogens Treatment Center (RESPTC) in supporting ASPR and the National Special Pathogens System of Care as a resource for FEMA Region 6
- SPECTRE provides
 - **Clinical Care in Containment**
 - **Specialized Biocontainment Care Unit**
 - **Clinical staff trained in performing duties in high level of PPE**
 - **Ready to accept at least 2 patients within 8 hours notice**
 - **Training and Education**
 - **Research Infrastructure**
 - **Regional Coordination**

Texas Readiness

- Texas stands ready to identify and respond to viral hemorrhagic fevers.
 - Laboratory readiness
 - Epidemiologic readiness
 - Active engagement with hospitals via the Hospital Preparedness Program
 - Ongoing preparedness with state preparedness and response



Thank you!