

# DPHHS HAN

## Information Sheet



### DATE

June 2, 2026

### SUBJECT

2026 Ebola Disease Outbreak Update for Montana

### SUMMARY

Federal officials are screening all United States (U.S.) travelers returning from Ebola-affected countries for symptoms and possible exposures to Ebola disease upon arrival in the U.S. Ebola-affected countries currently include the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, and Uganda. Federal officials are notifying the Montana DPHHS of travelers returning from these countries and recommending a 21-day symptom-monitoring period. DPHHS is notifying local and tribal health jurisdictions of their returned travelers to coordinate monitoring of each traveler.

### BACKGROUND

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory on May 19, 2026, to alert clinicians, public health practitioners, and travelers about a new outbreak of Ebola disease in DRC and Uganda caused by the Bundibugyo virus (species *Orthoebolavirus bundibugyoense*). The risk of spread to the U.S. is considered low at this time.

### INFORMATION

It is important that Montana clinicians, medical facilities, DPHHS, and local and tribal health staff prepare to monitor travelers recently returned from Ebola-affected countries.

The incubation period for Ebola ranges from 2 to 21 days after exposure. A person infected with the Ebola virus is not considered contagious until after [symptoms](#) appear. Early "dry" symptoms include fever, aches, pains, and fatigue, and later "wet" symptoms include diarrhea, vomiting, and unexplained bleeding.

Ebola disease is spread through **direct contact** (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the body fluids (e.g., blood, urine, feces, saliva, semen, or other secretions) of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola disease. Ebola disease can also be transmitted to humans from infected animals or through contact with contaminated objects, such as needles. **Ebola disease is not spread through airborne transmission.**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- If a clinician evaluates a patient who returned from an Ebola-affected country in the past 21 days, who develops symptoms of viral hemorrhagic fever (e.g., fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding), immediately implement isolation precautions and call your [local or tribal public health department](#) or the DPHHS Communicable Disease

Epidemiology Section (CDEpi) at 406-444-0273. DPHHS can facilitate a consultation with the CDC to determine next steps.

- Clinicians should also consider and perform testing for more common diagnoses, such as malaria, COVID-19, influenza, and other causes of gastrointestinal and febrile illnesses, in an acutely ill patient with recent international travel, and evaluate and manage the patient appropriately.
- Testing for Ebola must be coordinated through the Montana Public Health Laboratory.
- Medical facilities should review the infection control protocols linked below and have a plan in place for their facility on how to triage patients and implement appropriate infection control practices for patients suspected of having viral hemorrhagic fever.
- Local and tribal public health departments that receive notification of travelers returned from Ebola-affected countries should:
  - Contact the traveler to provide health information and advise them to watch for symptoms until 21 days after departing the affected country. If a returned traveler develops symptoms, including but not limited to fever, aches, pains, and fatigue, they should take their temperature, self-isolate, and notify the local or tribal health department. CDC recommendations for public health assessment, traveler education, and monitoring are located [here](#).
  - Provide the traveler with your after-hours phone number and the CDEpi after-hours number to call if they develop symptoms: 406-444-0273.
  - The frequency of check-ins for a returned traveler is determined by the types of exposures they experienced while traveling.
  - Notify your health care facilities that a traveler is under monitoring and discuss a care and infection control plan if the person develops any symptoms within 21 days of returning to the United States.

### **Ebola Community/Traveler Resources**

- [Ebola Outbreak: Current Situation](#)
- [What Travelers Need to Know About Returning to the United States from DRC, Uganda, and South Sudan](#)

### **Ebola Clinical Resources:**

- [What Clinicians Should Know about Ebola Bundibugyo Virus](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Public Health Assessment and Management of Travelers from Countries Affected by the 2026 Ebola Outbreak](#)

### **Ebola Infection Control Resources:**

- [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients in U.S. Hospitals who are Suspected or Confirmed to have Selected Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHF\)](#)
- [PPE: Clinically Stable Patients Suspected to Have VHF](#)
- [PPE: Confirmed Patients and Clinically Unstable Patients Suspected to Have VHF](#)
- [Ebola PPE Frequently Asked Questions | Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- [Health care Provider Trainings on Ebola Disease | Ebola | CDC](#)

## **CDC HAN FULL REPORT**

Please use the following link to access the full CDC HAN issued May 19, 2026:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00530.html>