

Past & Present

Facts

Our Lego League Team created this Interactive Prim learning module specifically for students (grades 4-8+) and adults. Use it alone to get a basic overview of Ebola or as a springboard for further study. Simply download the Layaer App on your smartphone, ipod, or ipad, and watch the page come alive! Enjoy the journey and remember- knowledge is power!!! - the Legonados

Ebola is a virus which causes Ebola Hemorrhagic fever. It was discovered in 1976 by Peter Piot and was named after the Ebola River located in Democratic Republic of Congo.

2014 began with a steady increase in Ebola cases in west Africa- mainly Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia. As of December 4th, 2014, there were 17,256 confirmed cases and 6,113 deaths due the Ebola virus.



There have been two cases of locally contracted Ebola cases in the U.S. All others have gotten the disease while in Africa and were treated in the U.S.

There are many myths surrounding the Ebola outbreak that has caused some people to be afraid. The risk of getting Ebola in the U.S. is extremely low.

You CANNOT get Ebola from the air or water. You can only get Ebola from touching someone who has Ebola or touching infected objects.



Fruit bats and some primates are thought to be carriers of Ebola. This means they have the virus in their blood, but do not show any symptoms. Scientists do not think pets can get or spread Ebola- currently no cases have been found. The CDC recommends quarantine of any suspected cases as a precaution.

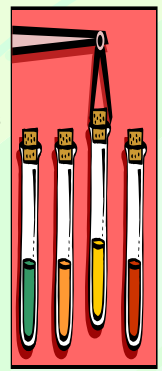
Scientists have studied this virus since its discovery and have only seen a 3% difference from 1976-2014. Ebola is not airborne. With the current mutation rate, scientists think it unlikely it will ever be spread through the air.

Symptoms & Treatment

Technology & News

Ebola Symptoms include fever, bad headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, tiredness, and bleeding. Symptoms occur from 2-21 days after infection. A person infected with Ebola is not infectious until they are very sick. This is when the virus has had time to invade the white blood cells and reproduce many times.

Currently there is no treatment or vaccine for Ebola. Healthcare workers can treat the symptoms and try to make the patient comfortable. This involves giving enough oxygen, treatment for infections, and keeping the patient hydrated.



USAID and the US government have issued a challenge to solve the problem of personal protective equipment (PPE). The winter season in western Africa is coming and the temperatures can reach 100 degrees F. The challenge goes out to anyone to design protective gear which is cooler and still protect the healthcare worker from Ebola. Check out more on this on USAID's website!

USAID has organized a DART team (Disaster Assistance Response Team), to coordinate planning, operations, logistics, administrative issues, etc. as the Ebola outbreak continues. They are training volunteers and are setting up Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) to provide more access to medical aid for people in need.



Wash your hands often! It is the best way to prevent many diseases, not just Ebola!!! Remember, many more people get the common flu than Ebola!

