

Thank you to all of our partners who joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Ebola Outbreak Partner Call: *Updates for West African Communities in the United States on September 30, 2014*. We hope you found the call to be informative. Please share this call summary with your colleagues and partners.

Craig Manning, from CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, provided information about the [Ebola outbreak](#).

- Ebola virus is spread through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or died from Ebola.
- Ebola is **not** spread through the air or by water or, in general, by food; however, in Africa, Ebola may be spread as a result of handling bushmeat (wild animals hunted for food) and contact with infected bats.
- Health workers caring for Ebola patients and the family and friends in close contact with Ebola patients are at the highest risk of getting sick, because they may come in contact with the blood or body fluids of sick patients; for example, changing sheets after an ill person has vomited would put a caregiver at high risk.
- It is important for people to avoid funeral or burial rituals that require handling the body of someone who has died from Ebola.
- Ebola virus is killed with hospital-grade disinfectants (such as household bleach).
- **Ebola is contagious only if the person is experiencing active symptoms.**

Many of the questions from participants focused on CDC response activities and ways to help.

What is [CDC](#) doing in the affected countries to respond to the outbreak?

- CDC has deployed several teams of public health experts to the West Africa region.
- CDC staff are assisting with response efforts, including surveillance, finding people who have had direct contact with a sick Ebola patient, data management, laboratory testing, and health education.
- Communicators are developing training and messaging for communities about transmission, safe burial practices, and psychosocial support.
- CDC is partnering with major telecommunications companies in the affected countries. These providers disseminate radio and TV program information, public service announcements, and text (SMS) and interactive voice response (IVR) messages on Ebola.
- CDC is working closely with the Ministries of Health in each country, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) and other non-governmental partner organizations.

What is the best way to help?

- [USAID](#) has information for qualified healthcare professionals interested in volunteering assistance.
- USAID's [Center for International Disaster Information](#) maintains a list of non-governmental organizations that are involved in the response.
- The [CDC Foundation](#) is working with businesses and non-profit organizations that wish to support CDC's response.

If you have suggestions for future topics for partner outreach calls, please email emergencypartners@cdc.gov.