

Thank you for participating in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Ebola Epidemic Partner Call: *Updates for the Private Sector* on October 23, 2014. A complete transcript and recording of the call are available [online](#).

Kashef Ijaz, MD, MPH from [CDC's Center for Global Health](#) provided an [Ebola outbreak](#) update.

- The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the first in history, affecting [multiple countries](#) in West Africa.
- Hundreds of CDC staff members are working to provide [epidemiology, laboratory, contract tracing, logistics, staffing, communication, analytics, management, screening, quarantine, and other support functions for the response](#), which is CDC's the largest international epidemic response.
- 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.
- Ebola is contagious only if the person is experiencing [active symptoms](#).
- CDC has provided enhanced [guidance for healthcare workers caring for patients with Ebola](#).
- Public health authorities will [actively monitor](#) travelers from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Jed Meline, from the U.S. Agency for International Development ([USAID](#)) provided information about the U.S. response to the Ebola epidemic, and how organizations can help.

- [USAID](#) efforts focus controlling the spread of Ebola, by supporting laboratory testing, treatment facilities, and relief supplies.
- Financial contributions to organizations participating in the response are the most effective and efficient avenue to make a difference. USAID's [Center for International Disaster Information](#) maintains a list of non-governmental organizations that are involved in the response.
- [USAID](#) has information for qualified healthcare professionals interested in volunteering assistance.
- Organizations that have contributed financially or in-kind can log their contributions on the [United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Financial Tracking Service](#).

Key Points from the Q&A:

- There are no data on Ebola virus infections being spread via contaminated paper currency. Nonetheless, money is not sterile. It is important for people to practice regular hand hygiene protocols they normally would follow when handling currency.
- Hospital-grade disinfectants (such as household bleach) kill Ebola virus. Ebola virus dried on surfaces such as doorknobs and countertops can survive for several hours; Virus in body fluids (such as blood) can survive up to several days at room temperature.
- Unlike respiratory illnesses like measles or chickenpox, which can be transmitted by virus particles that remain suspended in the air after an infected person coughs or sneezes, Ebola is [transmitted](#) by direct contact with body fluids of a person who has symptoms of Ebola disease.
- U.S. citizens should avoid all nonessential travel to [Guinea](#), [Liberia](#), and [Sierra Leone](#).
- For questions or concerns about a possible case of Ebola, contact your [local health department](#).

Helpful Resources and Links:

- [CDC Ebola Website](#)
- [USAID Website](#)
- [Fact Sheet: Could it be Ebola?](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) Ebola Information](#)
- [Information for Healthcare Workers and Settings](#)
- [Clinician Resources \(COCA\)](#)
- [Information for Travelers](#)
- [OSHA Fact Sheet: Cleaning and Decontamination of Ebola on Surfaces](#)

[Questions?](#) Contact CDC-Info [online](#) or by phone 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)