Ebola

The information in this PDF is no longer current or being updated. For current information on workplace safety and health, visit the NIOSH website.
A person could have been exposed to Ebola if he or she (or a close contact) has traveled from a country with an Ebola outbreak within the previous 21 days.

Symptoms of Ebola include:
- Fever
- Severe headache
- Muscle pain
- Weakness
- Tiredness
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising

Direct contact with body fluids can happen through broken skin or through the eyes, nose, or mouth.

It occurs by touch, droplet splashes, or skin punctures from contaminated sharp items like needles.

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Contaminated Surfaces
Unless you have been specifically trained and provided appropriate PPE for cleaning suspect Ebola-contaminated areas, you should NOT try to clean the area. If you suspect an area has been contaminated:

- Prevent anyone from accessing the area.
- Alert others in the area, and notify your supervisor or other personnel designated to respond to these situations.

Employers are responsible for ensuring that workers are protected from exposure to Ebola virus and from harmful levels of chemicals used for cleaning and disinfection. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, including those for Bloodborne Pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030), establish requirements for protecting workers and should be followed by employers.

Employers’ Responsibilities
To help protect you from Ebola, your employer should have a health and safety plan that

- Ensures you know about Ebola, how it is spread, your chances of being exposed, and what to do in situations where areas or surfaces are contaminated with Ebola
- Designates a person to respond to Ebola concerns at the airport and informs you who this person is and how to contact him or her
- Explains specific public health procedures at this airport to monitor travelers from Ebola-affected areas
- Provides appropriate PPE and trains you on its use, if necessary
- Trains you on good handwashing practices and other routine infection control precautions (e.g., using gloves)—this will help prevent the spread of many diseases, including Ebola
- Shows you where to access soap and clean running water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol

More Information
- NIOSH Workplace Safety and Health Topic—Ebola: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/ebola/
- CDC Ebola website: http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/
- 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-888-232-6348 | Website: www.cdc.gov/info