



Ebola disease information for frontline health professionals

21 May 2026

Ebola disease outbreak caused by Bundibugyo virus

Ebola viruses can cause a severe and often fatal haemorrhagic disease in humans (Ebola disease).

There is currently an outbreak of Ebola disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, caused by Bundibugyo virus.

The risk of importation to Australia is very low.

Health professionals should be alert to the possibility of Ebola disease in unwell travellers from impacted areas. For currently affected areas refer to:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/emergency-events/item/2026-e000253>

If you suspect your patient has Ebola disease

- Isolate the patient and restrict entry to the isolation room.
- Obtain a full travel and exposure history, including symptoms, illness onset, travel dates and travel activities/locations.
- Urgently notify your local public health unit by phone, wherever possible, before collecting any pathology specimens or undertaking any invasive procedures. They can provide further advice on risk assessment and public health management.
- If you are in a hospital, immediately notify the infection control service and the hospital executive for your hospital and follow their directions.

More information

- [Ebola virus disease | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Infection prevention and control principles and recommendations for Ebola virus disease | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Ebola virus disease – CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [PHLN laboratory procedures and precautions for samples collected from patients with viral haemorrhagic fevers | Australian Centre for Disease Control](#)