



DISEASE 101:

Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD)



What is Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD)?



Bundibugyo virus disease (BVD) is a severe and often fatal form of Ebola disease. Previous outbreaks of BVD have resulted in death rates as high as a 50%.

Did You Know?

In May 2026, an outbreak of Bundibugyo was detected in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda (imported from DRC). Previous outbreaks have occurred in Uganda in 2007 and in DRC in 2012.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO APPROVED TREATMENTS FOR BUNDIBUGYO VIRUS DISEASE, THOUGH TRIALS ARE UNDERWAY AS OF AUGUST 2026 TO EVALUATE POTENTIAL TREATMENT OPTIONS.



Disease Transmission

The virus is believed to be transmitted to humans by the presumed reservoir, fruit bats or infected primates — even if the infected animal is dead — through hunting, butchering, or consumption of bush meat.



Disease Prevention

If travel to the affected areas is unavoidable, the U.S. CDC recommends the following precautions.



AVOID:

- contact with people who have symptoms such as fever, muscle pain, or rash
- contact with blood and other body fluids or objects that are contaminated
- contact with dead bodies or items that have been in contact with dead bodies
- contact with bats, forest antelopes, nonhuman primates (e.g., monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas), and blood, fluids, or raw meat from these or unknown animals
- going into areas where bats live, such as mines or caves

Symptoms

Symptoms begin anywhere from 2 to 21 (usually 6-10 days) days after infection. Ebola symptoms tend to be similar across all species. These include:



FEVER



FATIGUE



SORE THROAT



HEADACHE

FOLLOWED BY



VOMITING



DIARRHEA



ABDOMINAL PAIN RASH



BLEEDING



IMPAIRED KIDNEY FUNCTION



IMPAIRED LIVER FUNCTION

Source: [WHO](#) and [CDC](#) | Updated: September 2026