 Ebony in Uganda

There is an outbreak of Ebola in Uganda.

Ebola is caused by a virus and can make people very sick. At least 4 in 10 people who get the disease die from it.

Who is at greater risk of becoming infected with Ebola?

The virus that causes Ebola can be spread by touching the body or bodily fluids of a person who is sick with, or has died from, Ebola. Infected bodily fluids can include blood, vomit, saliva, urine and faeces. So you have a higher chance of getting Ebola disease if, in the past 21 days:

- you live/have lived in the same household as a person who is sick with Ebola disease
- you visited them, or they came to see you
- you prepared, or were exposed to, their body at a funeral ceremony
- you cared for them without wearing protective clothing
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How can I protect myself from Ebola disease?

Whether or not you take part in the study, it is important to keep doing all the things that we know protect people from becoming infected.

Taking the following actions could save your life and the lives of others:

- Avoid direct contact with the bodily fluids of people who are suspected of, or are confirmed to have, Ebola disease.
- If you must have contact, wear protective equipment – such as gloves and a mask - and wash your hands regularly.
- Do not handle or prepare the bodies of people who are suspected of having, or confirmed to have, died from Ebola disease. Their bodies must be buried by a trained burial team.

Is my participation in the study confidential?

The information you give to the study team will be stored securely and only researchers will have access to it.

The results of the study are anonymized – so no participant’s details are identified.

Further information/Contact details

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Will I be informed of the results of the study?

Yes, everyone who takes part in the study will see the results.

What should I do if I get sick after receiving the study vaccine?

If you are unwell, please contact the study team as soon as you can.

What should I do if I suspect I have Ebola?

The study vaccine does NOT cause Ebola. But if you have had close contact with a person sick with, or has died from, Ebola, you are at greater risk of getting the disease.

If you have any of the following symptoms of Ebola, call the local health emergency telephone number or go to a health facility immediately: fever, headache, weakness, vomiting, bloody diarrhoea or urine, bleeding from body openings. These symptoms can look a lot like other kinds of diseases like malaria.
There is a study to find out if promising vaccines work against Ebola

Together, we can stop the spread of Ebola. There are many things we can do to protect people and communities from the disease. But we do not yet have a vaccine. There are, however, some promising vaccines that will be evaluated in a new study. People who have had close contact with a person who has been sick with, or died from, Ebola can take part in this study.

If I have had contact with someone who was sick with, or has died from, Ebola disease and want to take part in the study - what happens next?

You will need to:

- talk with the study team when they contact you. They will provide further information and answer any questions you have. This will help you to make a decision on whether or not to take part
- sign or put a fingerprint on a consent form to confirm you want to take part and/or want the young person you are responsible for to take part
- answer some simple questions for our records
- be given the study vaccine immediately – or in 21 days’ time. The vaccine is injected into your upper arm using a clean needle and syringe
- wait where you had the study vaccine for 30 minutes afterwards. In the unlikely event of you experiencing a bad reaction to the vaccine, you will be seen by a doctor
- be visited once a week for 3 weeks by a member of the study team so we can check on your health and answer any questions. Please feel free to contact the medical officer if you have any concerns at all during the 3 weeks after receiving the study vaccine

Questions and answers

Who can take part in this study?

People can take part if they have been in close contact with someone confirmed to have Ebola disease and:
- they are 6 years old or above
- they are able to give informed consent

6-7 year olds will need the consent of a parent or legal guardian to take part. For 8-17 year olds, both their assent and the consent of a parent/legal guardian is required.

Who cannot take part in this study?

People who:
- have been ill with Ebola disease
- have had other experimental treatments in the last 28 days
- have had a bad reaction to vaccines in the past
- have a serious illness needing hospital treatment at the time of vaccination

Can I take part if I am pregnant or currently breastfeeding?

Yes you can take part. There is limited information about the safety of the study vaccines among women who are pregnant or breastfeeding. It is your decision whether or not to join the study.

Do I have to take part in the study?

It is your choice whether or not to take part. We will provide further information and answer any questions you have.

Can I stop taking part during the study?

You can stop taking part in the study at any time. It is your choice. You will receive the same health care whether or not you take part in the study.

What are the possible side-effects of the vaccine?

All vaccines and treatments have some side-effects. The study team will give you information about the side-effects of the vaccine before you decide whether or not to take part in the study. Side-effects include tenderness, hardness of the skin, muscle and/or joint pain, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhoea and headache.