



# Ebola Fact Sheet

## We Are Prepared

- Lurie Children's is one of the four Chicago hospitals that might care for patients who may have been exposed to the Ebola virus.
- We have absolute confidence in our ability to safely care for children with Ebola.
- Your child's safety will in no way be compromised while at Lurie Children's, even if we do need to treat a child with Ebola here. Patients, families and visitors will be kept free from any potential exposure to the Ebola virus.
- We are working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and we are following the latest safety guidelines from the CDC.
- To maintain safety, we have designated secure routes and isolation rooms within the hospital.
- We have a dedicated, highly-trained team who will care exclusively for a patient with Ebola. This team will follow strict isolation and infection control procedures as recommended by the CDC.
- This means that your child, family and visitors WILL NOT pass by this patient on the elevators, the cafeteria or any other place in the hospital.
- Our clinics and operating rooms are working on their normal schedules. There is no need to cancel your child's appointment or surgery.

## Facts About Ebola

### *How the Ebola Virus Spreads*

- Ebola is not as contagious as the flu because it doesn't spread through the air.
- Ebola is spread only through direct contact with the infected person's blood and body fluids (vomit, urine, diarrhea, saliva, sweat, tears, semen, etc.).
- Direct contact means that infected body fluids enter through another individual's mouth, eyes, nose or cuts in the skin. This can happen through touching these fluids or contaminated objects and then touching the mouth, eyes, nose, or broken skin.
- After direct contact with the body fluids of a contagious person, symptoms can appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days, but most people get sick in 8 to 10 days.
- People with Ebola are contagious only when they start showing symptoms:
  - Fever (greater than 38.6° C or 101.5° F) is the earliest symptom.
  - Severe headache
  - Muscle pain
  - Intense weakness
  - Diarrhea and vomiting, usually beginning 6 to 8 days after fever starts
  - Unexplained bleeding or bruising



- There is no evidence that insects can transmit Ebola. Also, there have been no reports of dogs and cats becoming sick with Ebola or spreading the virus.

#### *Care for a Person with Ebola*

Recovery from Ebola depends on excellent supportive clinical care, including intravenous (IV) fluids and electrolytes, and the patient's immune response. There is no available vaccine or effective antiviral medication, and only limited experimental therapies. People who recover from Ebola develop immunity for at least 10 years.

For more information on Ebola, visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/ebola).