Introduction
Ebola is a virus, formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever (Ebola HF). It is a fatal disease in human and non-human primates. The name of Ebola is named after a river in Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), where it was the first recognized case of Ebola in human.

Natural Reservoir
In Africa, fruit bats of the genera Hypsignathus monstrosus, Epomops franqueti and Myonycteris torquata are considered possible natural hosts for Ebola virus. Non-human primates are considered to be the source of infection for human, but they are not thought to be the reservoir. Ebola virus cannot survive for a long time outside the body.

Transmission:
Ebola virus is transmitted from wild animals to human, and spreads in the community through human-to-human transmission, with infection resulting from direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people, and indirect contact with environments contaminated with such fluids.

How Contagious is Ebola virus?
You are not likely to catch Ebola just being in proximity with someone who has the virus - IT IS NOT AIRBORNE.

Incubation Period
According to Centers Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the symptoms usually appear about 8 to 10 days after exposure.

Signs and symptoms
Initial symptoms include flu-like symptoms. Ebola Virus Disease is a severe acute viral illness often characterized by the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat. This is followed by impaired kidney and liver function. Some patients may experience rash, red eyes, hiccups, cough chest pain difficult breathing and swallowing, including internal and external bleeding. Laboratory findings include low white blood cell and platelet counts and elevated liver enzymes. People are infectious as long as their blood and secretions contain the virus. Ebola virus was isolated from semen 61 days after onset of illness in a man who was infected in a laboratory.

Vaccination
No vaccine for Ebola Virus Disease is available yet.

Treatment
No specific treatment is available.

Persons infected with Ebola virus are frequently dehydrated and require oral rehydration with solutions containing electrolytes or intravenous fluids. Standard treatment for Ebola viral infection is still limited to supportive therapy. This consists of:
- balancing the patient’s fluids and electrolytes
- maintaining their oxygen status and blood pressure
- treating them for any complicating infections

Prevention and Control
The prevention of Ebola Virus Infection presents various challenges, because it is still unknown how exactly people are infected with Ebola Virus.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO), developed a set of guidelines to help prevent and control the spread of Ebola Viral Infection. For more information refer to Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever Information Packet, CDC-Travelers” Health