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This week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the first confirmed case of Ebola diagnosed in the United States in a person who traveled from West Africa.

There's all the difference in the world between the U.S. and parts of Africa where Ebola is spreading. The United States is prepared, and has a strong health care system and public health professionals who will make sure this case does not threaten our communities. As CDC Director Dr. Frieden has said, "I have no doubt that we will control this case of Ebola, so that it does not spread widely in this country."

Although Ebola is a highly destructive disease, it is not a highly contagious disease.

### **Here are the facts you should know about Ebola:**

**What is Ebola?** Ebola virus is the cause of a viral hemorrhagic fever disease. Symptoms include: fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, lack of appetite, and abnormal bleeding. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to ebolavirus though 8-10 days is most common.

**How is Ebola transmitted?** Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected symptomatic person or through exposure to objects (such as needles) that have been contaminated with infected secretions.

**Can Ebola be transmitted through the air?** No. Ebola is not a respiratory disease like the flu, so it is not transmitted through the air.

**Can I get Ebola from contaminated food or water?** No. Ebola is not transmitted through food in the United States. It is not transmitted through water.

**Can I get Ebola from a person who is infected but doesn't have any symptoms?** No. Individuals who are not symptomatic are not contagious. In order for the virus to be transmitted, an individual would have to have direct contact with an individual who is experiencing symptoms or has died of the disease.

Click here for more: [Questions and Answers about Ebola](#)

Please find a link below to information from the NYS Department of Health regarding Ebola:

[\*\*http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola/\*\*](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/ebola/)

