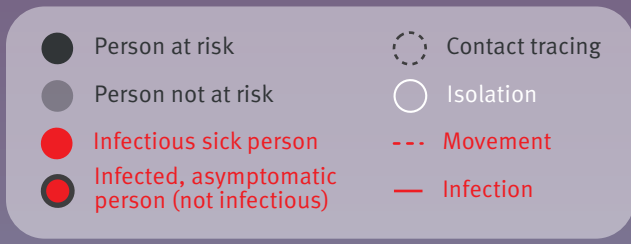


HOW DOES EBOLA DISEASE SPREAD?



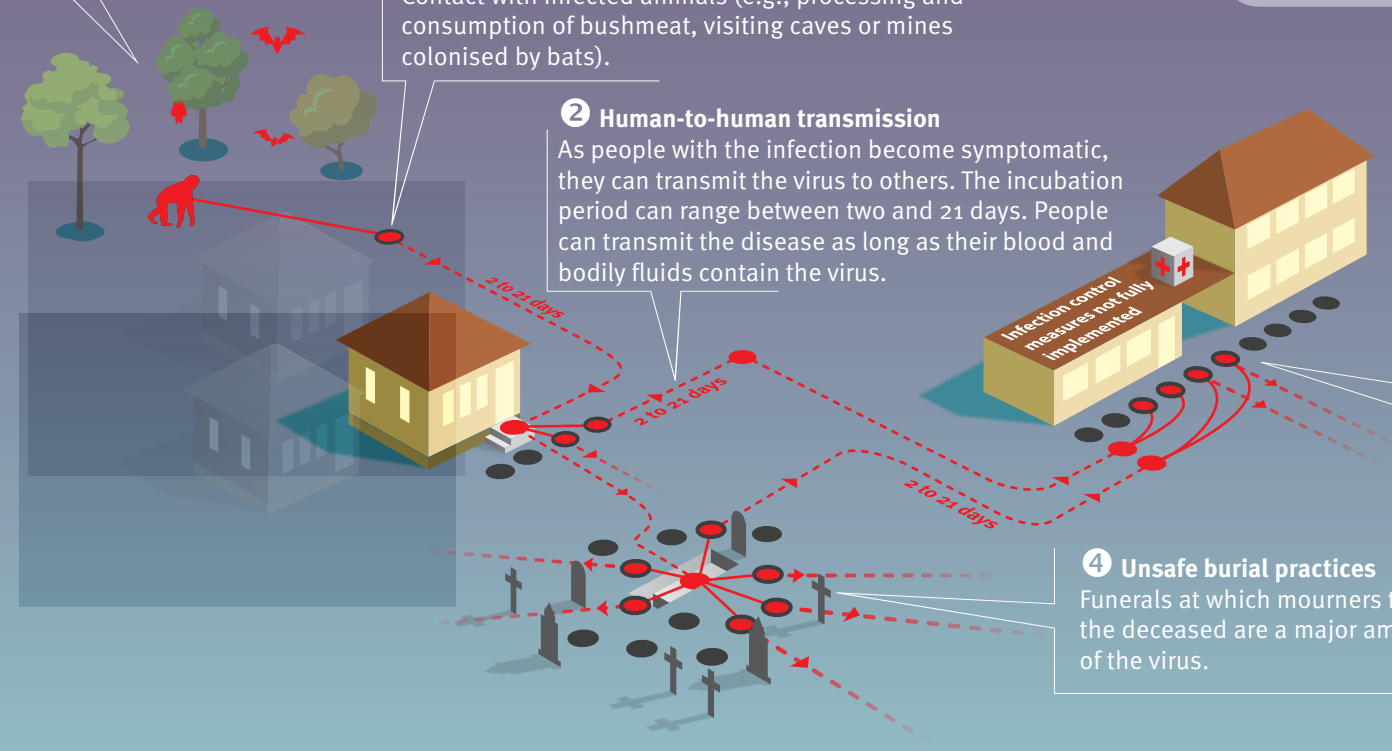
Reservoirs
Bats and other wild animals are the suspected sources.

1 Transmission to humans
Contact with infected animals (e.g., processing and consumption of bushmeat, visiting caves or mines colonised by bats).

2 Human-to-human transmission
As people with the infection become symptomatic, they can transmit the virus to others. The incubation period can range between two and 21 days. People can transmit the disease as long as their blood and bodily fluids contain the virus.

3 Hospitals as amplifiers
Throughout their stay in hospital, people with the disease should be cared for under strict infection control measures to ensure that the hospital does not become an amplifier of the disease.

4 Unsafe burial practices
Funerals at which mourners touch the deceased are a major amplifier of the virus.



STOPPING THE SPREAD

The control of the outbreak relies on breaking the chain of transmission through containment measures and changing people's behaviour.

5 Strict protocols
Vigorous hospital infection control measures are applied in designated Ebola disease treatment units.

4 Medical equipment
Doctors and nurses should wear protective clothing, such as gloves, masks, gowns and eye shields.

3 Contact tracing
Identifying and following up on those who had contact with a patient is essential to curb the spread of the disease.

1 Seeking medical help
People who have been exposed to Ebola virus or have symptoms should seek medical care immediately.

2 Safe burial practices
All contact with the bodies of those who died from Ebola disease must be avoided. Prompt and safe burial of the dead minimises the risk of infection.

