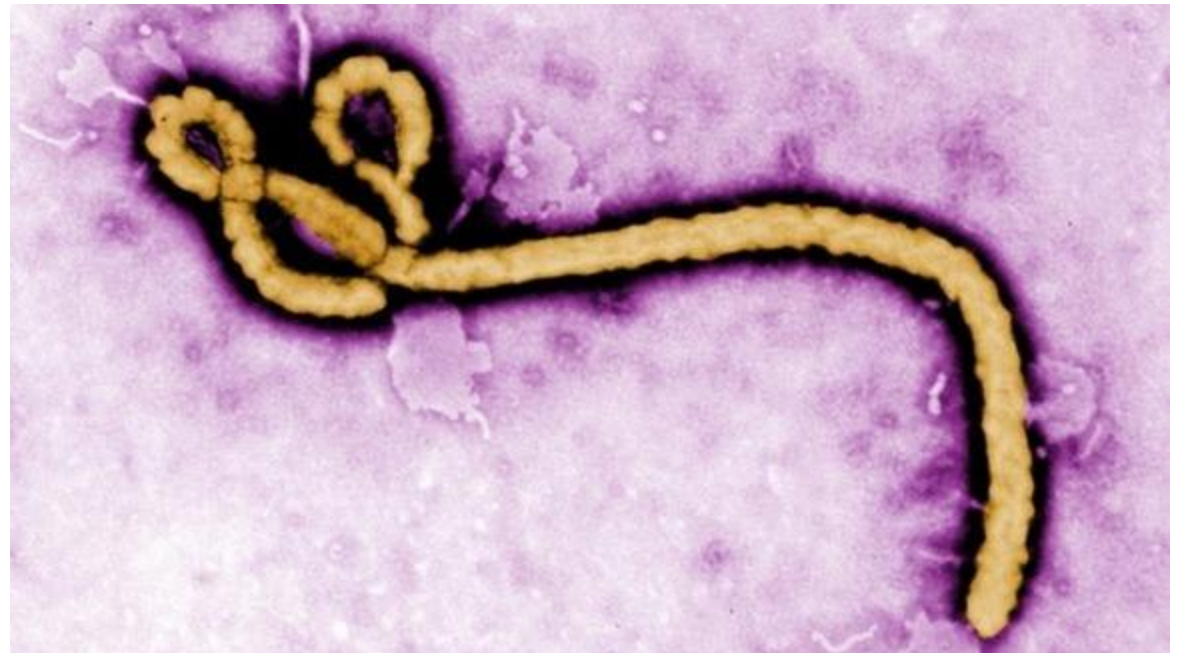


Infectious Fear

The 2014 Ebola Crisis

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Outline

- Background information on the Ebola virus and current epidemic
- The Dallas Case
- How our fear of Ebola fits with previous experiences with other infectious diseases



Ebola Virus Disease, 2014-2015

- 19,497 reported cases
- 7588 deaths
- Major Countries
 - Guinea
 - Liberia
 - Sierra Leone
- Minor Countries
 - Mali
 - Nigeria
 - Senegal
 - Spain
 - United States



As of 12/24/14, WHO

History of Ebola Virus

- First identified in 1976
- Five species
- Zoonotic virus, unknown reservoir
- Clusters and cases probably more common than reported

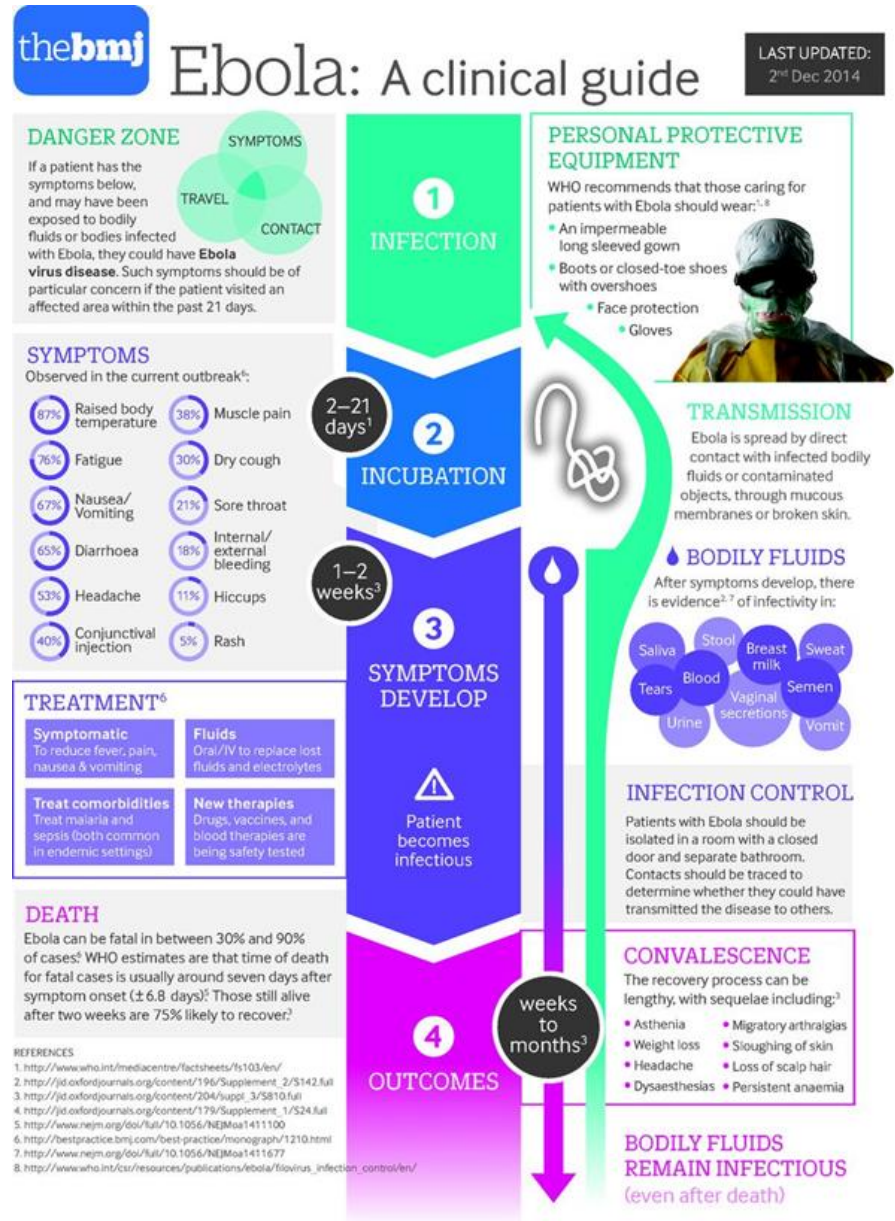


Feldmann H, Geisbert TW. Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever. *Lancet*. 2011; 377:849-62.
Peters CJ, and Peters JW. An Introduction to Ebola: The Virus and the Disease. *J Infect Dis*. 1999; 179 (S1):ix-xvi.

Transmission

- Mainly through contact with body fluids of symptomatic patients
- No evidence of airborne transmission

1. WHO Ebola Emergency Response Team. NEJM. 2014; 371: 1481-95.
2. Mahanty S and Bray M. Pathogenesis of filoviral haemorrhagic fevers. Lancet Infectious Diseases. 2004; 4(8): 487-98.



Ebola in Dallas

- Thomas E. Duncan, exposed to Ebola on 9/15/14, arrives on 9/19/14
- Presents to Presbyterian Hospital on 9/26 with symptoms
- Returns to hospital on 9/28
- Dies on 10/8/14
- Two healthcare workers infected
- Hundreds of contacts monitored

Media

- “Reporters can be part of the problem or part of the solution”- Mayor Mike Rawlings
- County Medical Society Social Media Campaign reached 2.4 million viewers



Politics

- Elected Officials
 - Respond to needs of constituents
 - Convey to the public how government is responding
 - Leverage public-private partnerships



Carlo J. Politics of Disasters in Oxford
American Handbook of Disaster Medicine.
2012; Oxford: New York

Public Health Law

- Law is used to establish norms for healthy behavior and create social conditions for people to be healthy¹
- The Constitution does not set forth an explicit right to health care
- Federal law (Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § § 243 and 244) provides assistance and prevents introduction into states or one state to another

1. Gostin LO, Burris S, Lazzarini Z. The Law and the Public's Health: A Study of Infectious Disease Law in the U.S. Columbia Law Review. 1999; 99(1): 59-128.

Public Health Law

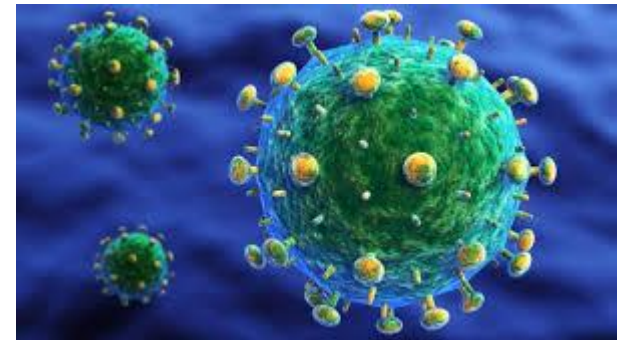
- Enforcement is a state's responsibility
- Sec. 81.002: The state has a duty to protect public health. Each person shall act responsibly to prevent and control communicable disease.
- Sec. 81.082: Administration of Control Measures

Major Conclusions to Date

- Ebola transmission was not airborne
- Primal fears caused reactions above what was necessary
 - Anti-science beliefs
 - Media exploitation
 - Political theater
- Fear-driven suspicion led to poor decisions
 - School closures
 - Quarantine of contacts in unsafe conditions
- Follows long history of stigma, discrimination, and marginalization of people suffering from infectious diseases

HIV/AIDS

- “Everyone with AIDS should be tattooed”
- Constitutional quarantine measures
- Targeted the four H’s
- Funeral homes would not accept bodies of people who died of AIDS



Buckley, WF. The New York Times. March 18, 1986. OP-ED.

Gonsalves G and Staley P. Panic, Paranoia and Public Health – The AIDS Epidemic’s Lessons for Ebola. NEJM. 2014; 371(25): 2348-9.

Strub S. Body Counts. A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS, and Survival. 2014; Scribner: New York.

Other Examples

- Neglect of African Americans in the South to Tuberculosis
- Mary Mallon (Typhoid Mary)
- Bubonic plague in San Francisco (1900)

Roberts, Samuel. *Infectious Fear: Politics, Disease and the Health Effects of Segregation*. 2009; University of North Carolina Press.

Leavitt, Judith Walzer. *Typhoid Mary. Captive to the Public's Health*. 1996; Beacon Press: Boston, MA.

Chase, Marilyn. *The Barbary Plague: The Black Death in Victorian San Francisco*. 2004; Random House: New York, NY.

Ancient History

- Venice (1370), Bubonic plague required 40 days before coming ashore
- New York (1892), Typhus in Russian Jewish immigrants
- Lepers (1300), Europe, persons were forced to carry a bell to warn others they were coming

Summary

- The Ebola epidemic still remains a global threat
- Many lessons are to be learned from the first case here in Dallas

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