

What to know about the Marburg virus

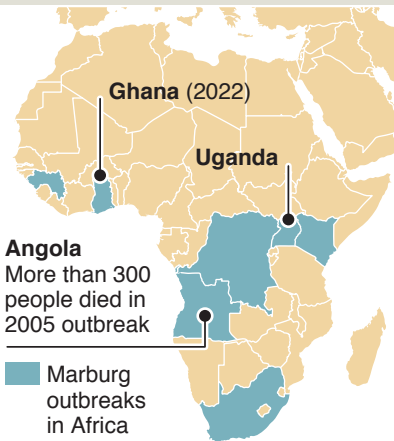
Marburg, a close relative of the more well-known Ebola virus, is a highly infectious disease affecting humans and non-human primates

MARBURG VIRUS ORIGINS

■ First outbreak occurred in 1967 in Germany, where seven people died following import of infected monkeys from Uganda

■ Subsequent outbreaks reported mostly in sub-Saharan Africa

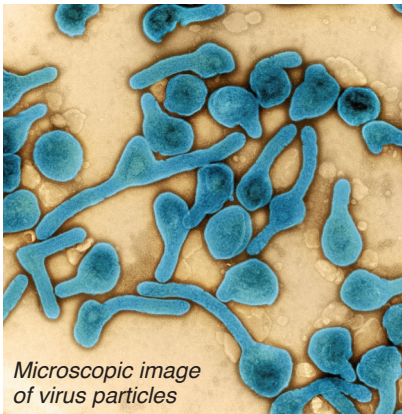
■ Natural host of virus is African fruit bat, *Rousettus aegyptiacus*



HUMAN INFECTION

■ Initially from prolonged exposure to caves inhabited by bat colonies

■ Spreads among humans via direct contact with bodily fluids of infected people and with contaminated surfaces and materials



Microscopic image of virus particles

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT

■ **Initial onset:** Illness begins abruptly after incubation period of 2-21 days. Common symptoms include high fever, severe headache and muscle aches and pains

■ **Further symptoms:** Include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, sore throat and non-itchy rash. Patients may develop severe bleeding within seven days

■ **Fatality rates:** Vary from 24% to 88% in past outbreaks depending on virus strain and case management

■ **Treatments/vaccines:** None currently available. Supportive care and treatment of specific symptoms improves survival