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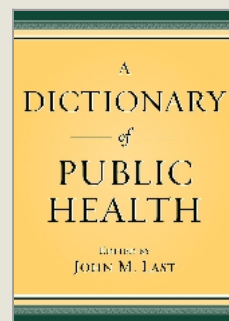
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## A Dictionary of Public Health

Edited by John M. Last

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## Ebola fever

A severe viral hemorrhagic fever that occurs in occasional and mostly localized epidemics in central Africa. It causes high fever and multiple hemorrhages from mucosae, including in the eyes, nose, mouth, and gastrointestinal tract. It has a very high case fatality rate, ranging from 50% to 90%. It is caused by a filovirus that is presumably transmitted

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to humans from wild animals or their meat or skins because epidemics have been associated with killing and eating “bush meat,” i.e., locally available monkeys and rodents. See also [EBOLA-MARBURG VIRUS DISEASES](#) and the Web site listed there for further information.