Ebolavirus Ecology

**Enzootic Cycle**
New evidence strongly implicates bats as the reservoir hosts for ebolaviruses, though the means of local enzootic maintenance and transmission of the virus within bat populations remain unknown.

**Ebolaviruses:**
- Ebola virus (formerly Zaire virus)
- Sudan virus
- Tai Forest virus
- Bundibugyo virus
- Reston virus (non-human)

**Epizootic Cycle**
Epizootics caused by ebolaviruses appear sporadically, producing high mortality among non-human primates and duikers and may precede human outbreaks. Epidemics caused by ebolaviruses produce acute disease among humans, with the exception of Reston virus which does not produce detectable disease in humans. Little is known about how the virus first passes to humans, triggering waves of human-to-human transmission, and an epidemic.

Human-to-human transmission is a predominant feature of epidemics. Following initial human infection through contact with an infected bat or other wild animal, human-to-human transmission often occurs.