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Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) 2010 Case Definition | CDC  
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Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF)  
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2010 Case Definition  
NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
09-ID-18  
Subtype(s)  
Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus  
Ebola virus  
Lassa virus  
Marburg virus  
New World arenavirus – Guanarito virus  
New World arenavirus – Junin virus  
New World arenavirus – Machupo virus  
New World arenavirus – Sabia virus  
Background  
New world Arenaviruses include: Guanarito, Machupo, Junin, and Sabia.  
Clinical Description  
A person with acute onset with ALL the following clinical findings:  
A fever >40°C,  
AND  
One or more of the following clinical findings:  
Severe headache  
Muscle pain  
Erythematous maculopapular rash on the trunk with fine desquamation 3–4 days after rash onset  
Vomiting  
Diarrhea  
Pharyngitis (arenavirus only)  
Abdominal pain  
Bleeding not related to injury  
Retrosternal chest pain (arenavirus only)  
Proteinuria (arenavirus only)  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
One or more of the following laboratory findings:  
Detection of viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) viral antigens in blood by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) antigen detection  
VHF viral isolation in cell culture for blood or tissues  
Detection of VHF viral genes using reverse transcriptase with polymerase chain reaction amplification (RT-PCR) from blood or tissues  
Detection of VHF viral antigens in tissues by immunohistochemistry  
Exposure  
One or more of the following exposures within the 3 weeks before onset of symptoms:  
Contact with blood or other body fluids of a patient with VHF  
Residence in—or travel to—a VHF endemic area  
Work in a laboratory that handles VHF specimens  
Work in a laboratory that handles primates from endemic areas  
OR  
Exposure within the past 3 weeks to semen from a confirmed acute or convalescent case of VHF within the 10 weeks of onset of symptoms  
Case Classification  
Suspected  
Case meets the clinical and epidemiologic linkage criteria.  
Confirmed  
Case meets the clinical and laboratory criteria.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) | 2025 Case Definition  
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) | 2022 Case Definition  
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) | 2011 Case Definition  
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NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
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