# Extracted Content from https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/case-definitions/viral-hemorrhagic-fever-vhf/

Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) 2025 Case Definition | CDC  
Skip directly to site content  
Skip directly to search  
An official website of the United States government  
Here's how you know  
Official websites use .gov  
A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States.  
Secure .gov websites use HTTPS  
A  
lock  
(  
) or  
https://  
means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites.  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Explore Topics  
Search  
Search  
Clear Input  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View all  
Related Topics:  
NDC Application  
View All  
search  
close search  
search  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Menu  
Close  
search  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Related Topics  
NDC Application  
View All  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
October 22, 2024  
Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF)  
2025 Case Definition  
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF)  
2025 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)  
24-ID-12  
Subtype(s)  
Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus  
Ebola virus  
Lassa virus  
Lujo virus  
Marburg virus  
New World arenavirus - Chapare virus  
New World arenavirus – Guanarito virus  
New World arenavirus – Junin virus  
New World arenavirus – Machupo virus  
New World arenavirus – Sabia virus  
Rift Valley fever virus  
Background  
Viral hemorrhagic fevers (VHFs) are a group of illnesses caused by several families of viruses, including filoviruses (orthoebolaviruses and orthomarburgviruses), Old World arenaviruses (Lassa and Lujo viruses), New World arenaviruses (i.e., Guanarito, Machupo, Junin, Sabia, and Chapare viruses), Rift Valley fever virus, and Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus.  
The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists position statement 24-ID-12 made the following updates to the case definition:  
Updates to the clinical criteria, laboratory criteria, epidemiologic linkage, case classification, and addition of vital records evidence.  
Addition of VHF caused by Rift Valley fever virus to the VHFs considered to be nationally notifiable.  
An appendix is included in the updated position statement that provides incubation periods, reservoirs, and vectors to support public health practitioners with case ascertainment.  
Clinical Criteria  
Acute onset of one or more of the following clinical findings\*:  
Subjective OR measured fever ≥38°C/100.4°F  
Headache  
Muscle and/or joint pain  
Weakness and fatigue  
Cough/difficulty breathing  
Pharyngitis  
Loss of appetite  
Chest pain  
Skin rash  
Red eyes  
Abdominal pain  
Vomiting  
Diarrhea  
Intractable hiccups  
Encephalitis or other neurological manifestations  
Unexplained bleeding or bruising not related to injury or menstruation  
Acute hearing loss\*\*  
\*This list of signs and symptoms is not exhaustive and may be nonspecific; no sign or symptom is pathognomonic for VHFs.  
\*\*Relevant for Lassa fever.  
Laboratory Criteria  
Confirmatory Laboratory Evidence:  
Detection of VHF-specific^ nucleic acid in blood or other body fluids, blood products, or tissues using a diagnostic molecular test (e.g., NAAT, genome sequencing),  
OR  
Detection of VHF-specific^ IgM by ELISA,  
OR  
Detection of a four-fold rise in VHF-specific^ IgG titer from an acute sample to a convalescent sample,  
OR  
VHF^ viral isolation in cell culture for blood, blood products (e.g., serum), or tissues.  
Note: The categorical labels used here to stratify laboratory evidence are intended to support the standardization of case classifications for public health surveillance. The categorical labels should not be used to interpret the utility or validity of any laboratory test methodology.  
^VHF refers to viral hemorrhagic fever caused by filoviruses (Orthoebolaviruses and Orthomarburgviruses), Old World arenaviruses (Lassa and Lujo viruses), New World arenaviruses (Guanarito, Machupo, Junin, Sabia, and Chapare viruses), or viruses in the Bunyaviridae family (Rift  
V  
alley fever virus, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus).  
Epidemiologic Linkage  
Within the incubation period of the VHF any of the following:  
Contact with a person who had known or suspected^^ VHF or any object contaminated by their body fluids  
without use of or confidence in proper adherence to, or experiences a breach in, recommended infection  
prevention and control (IPC) precautions, including personal protective equipment (PPE) use,  
OR  
Handles specimens that contain or might contain replication competent VHF viruses without use of or confidence  
in proper adherence to, or experiences a breach in, recommended IPC precautions, including PPE use,  
OR  
Handles bats, rodents, or primates that are or may be infected with a VHF without use of or confidence in  
proper adherence to, or experiences a breach in, recommended IPC precautions, including PPE use,  
OR  
Exposure to body fluids (i.e., urine, saliva, sweat, vomit, breast milk, amniotic fluid, semen, aqueous humor,  
or cerebral spinal fluid) from a person who clinically recovered from a VHF without use of or confidence in proper adherence to, or experiences a breach in, recommended IPC precautions, including PPE use,  
OR  
Residence in or travel to a VHF endemic area or area with active transmission† [see Appendix 1 in  
CSTE Position Statement 24-ID-12  
]  
AND  
an experience with any of the following scenarios for potentially unrecognized VHF exposures:  
Contact with someone who was sick or died;  
Visiting or work in a healthcare facility;  
Breach in PPE and/or IPC precautions;  
Visiting a traditional healer;  
Attend or participate in funerals or burials;  
Contact with animals;  
Consumption of or handling raw meat;  
Tick or mosquito bite;  
Spent time in a mine or cave;  
Any other scenario for previously unrecognized VHF exposure as determined in consultation with subject matter experts at CDC.  
Note: Epidemiologic linkage criteria may require public health/CDC consultation to address any uncertainties and determine VHF risk. Please contact the CDC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) by phone at (770) 488-7100.  
^^ Exposure may have occurred outside the U.S.  
† As defined by public health authorities.  
Criteria to Distinguish a New Case from an Existing Case  
A new case of VHF should be enumerated only if not previously counted as a case of VHF caused by the same virus, as determined by laboratory evidence.  
‡  
‡  
Among the VHFs included in this CSTE position statement reinfection with the same virus species has not been documented. There is a theoretical possibility that a VHF survivor could be infected by a virus that causes one of the other VHFs included in this CSTE position statement (ex. Lassa fever, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, etc.).  
Case Classification  
Suspect  
Meets clinical criteria  
AND  
meets epidemiologic linkage evidence  
OR  
Meets vital records evidence.\*\*\*  
\*\*\*A person whose death certificate lists VHF or infection with a VHF-causing virus (Ebola, Lassa, Marburg, Lujo, Guanarito, Machupo, Junin, Sabia, Chapare, Rift Valley fever, or Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever viruses) as an underlying cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.  
Confirmed  
Meets confirmatory laboratory evidence.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) | 2022 Case Definition  
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) | 2011 Case Definition  
Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF) | 2010 Case Definition  
Back to Top  
Sources  
Print  
Share  
Facebook  
LinkedIn  
Twitter  
Syndicate  
Content Source:  
Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
View All  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Sign up for Email Updates  
Contact CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
Contact Us  
About CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
HHS.gov  
USA.gov