



VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS (VHFs)

What are VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS?

Viral hemorrhagic fever describes a severe syndrome in which multiple body organ systems are affected. There are several VHFs with similar effects and varying severity. They include Ebola, Lassa, Marburg, Rift Valley and others. Rodents or insects carry the viruses.

Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms may include fever, fatigue, dizziness and body aches. People with severe cases show signs of bleeding under the skin, internally and from body openings. They may also experience seizures, delirium, coma and complications related to the heart.

Transmission:

Person-to-person transmission occurs by direct contact with urine, feces, saliva and other body fluids. A person can also be infected by a bite from an infected animal.

Treatment:

Hospital treatment is necessary. There is no medicine used to treat VHFs.

Diagnosis:

Laboratory testing.

What can you do?

Keep rodents from living in homes and workplaces and clean-up nests and droppings. Use insect repellent and clothing to avoid being bitten.

Whom do you call?

Delaware Division of Public Health:
1-888-295- 5156

For more information:

Visit the CDC website:
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/ages/vhf.htm>