



VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS (VHFs)

What are VIRAL HEMORRHAGIC FEVERS?

Viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) 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 may carry the viruses.

Transmission:

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

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.

Treatment:

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

Diagnosis:

Laboratory testing.

What can you do?

Avoid direct contact with infected persons. 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?

Division of Public Health, Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology: 1-888-295-5156.

For more information:

Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: www.cdc.gov/vhf/.