

b Update on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever in South Africa

A total of five cases of CCHF was confirmed in South Africa for 2017 to date. These cases were reported from the Western Cape (n=1), Northern Cape (n=2) and the Free State (n=2) provinces. A case of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) was confirmed in a patient from Namibia in August. This was the second case of CCHF to be confirmed in a Namibian patient for 2017 to date.

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever is a tick-borne disease which is widely distributed in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Humans are exposed primarily through tick contact (specifically *Hyalomma* species), but may also get infected with the virus through contact with infected animal blood and tissues. Human-to-human transmission is limited, although few reports of nosocomial transmission have been noted. The risk of contracting the disease is greater during the late summer months,

but prevailing weather and environmental conditions that may support tick activity may extend this risk year long. Typically farmers, farm workers, abattoir workers and veterinarians that are at greater risk of contracting the disease, but any person that may have tick exposures (such as campers or hikers) or contact with infected blood and tissues (such as hunters) may be exposed. For more information visit the NICD website at www.nicd.ac.za.

Source: Source: Centre for Emerging, Zoonotic and Parasitic Diseases, NICD/NHLS;