

## NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NMC) CASE DEFINITIONS FLIPCHART

**Category 1: Immediate reporting telephonically followed by written or electronic notification within 24hrs of diagnosing a case**

### VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER DISEASES : CRIMEAN-CONGO

Why is surveillance necessary?	Who must notify and when?	Suspected case definition	Probable case definition	Confirmed case definition
<p>Congo fever is a viral hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) caused by a nairovirus and is transmitted to humans through the bites or crushing of ticks, by contact with a patient with CCHF during the acute phase of infection or by contact with blood or tissues from viremic livestock. CCHF has a global distribution (Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe) and is the only endemic viral hemorrhagic fever to South Africa, primarily in the inland central plateau and the drier regions of South Africa. The case-fatality rate of CCHF ranges from 3-30%. Persons with occupational or recreational exposure to ticks or animals are at risk of disease.</p> <p>CCHF is notifiable because it is transmissible from person to person and has outbreak potential. After notification of a case, public health officials will request all contacts of the case to monitor themselves for fever and compatible symptoms for a 14-day period following exposure.</p>	<p>The health care practitioner who suspects CCHF and requests laboratory testing should notify the case.</p> <p>The laboratory that diagnoses the condition should also notify the case</p>	<p>A person with acute onset of fever &gt; 38°C, and with at least three of the following signs and symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• severe headache, myalgia, prostration, flushing,</li> <li>• nausea, vomiting, pharyngitis, conjunctival injection,</li> <li>• petechial rashes, bleeding into skin (ecchymoses), from nose, vomiting of blood, blood in urine or stool, decreased platelets count,</li> <li>• hypotension and shock, leukopenia or leukocytosis, elevated AST or ALT (&gt; 100 U/L), oedema or neurologic signs.</li> </ul> <p>AND a likely epidemiological exposure including any of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a history of being bitten by tick/s or crushed tick with bare hands, or</li> <li>• direct contact with fresh blood or other tissues of hooved livestock or game or ostriches, or</li> <li>• direct contact with blood, secretion or excretions of confirmed or suspected CCHF patient (including needle pricks) OR</li> <li>• resides in or visited a rural environment where contact with livestock or ticks was possible in the past 15 days.</li> </ul>	<p>Any deceased suspected case (where it has not been possible to collect specimens for laboratory confirmation) having an epidemiological link.</p>	<p>A confirmed case is a person with laboratory evidence of CCHF infection as evidenced by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR positive and virus isolation from the patient's first (single) specimen, or</li> <li>• PCR positive and IgM positive result on patient's first (single) specimen, or</li> <li>• PCR positive on two separate specimens from the same patient collected at least one day apart, or</li> <li>• PCR positive but IgM/IgG negative result in patient's first specimen and PCR negative but IgM/IgG positive result in patient's second specimen collected at least one day apart, or</li> <li>• Increase in IgM/IgG titres between acute and convalescent specimens), or</li> <li>• is a suspected case with IgM positive result on patient's first specimen.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional notes</b> Clinicians suspecting CCHF haemorrhagic fever should contact the NICD 24-hour hotline (082-883-9920) for assistance with the diagnosis. Clinicians who submit specimens for CCHF testing should also complete the case investigation form that is found at <a href="https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/viral-haemorrhagic-fever-vhf/">https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/viral-haemorrhagic-fever-vhf/</a></p>				
<p><b>Additional resources</b> Additional resources including a frequently asked question (FAQ) document and a case investigation form are available at <a href="https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/crimean-congo-haemorrhagic-fever-cchf/">https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/crimean-congo-haemorrhagic-fever-cchf/</a></p>				