

## 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 : EBOLA

Why is surveillance necessary?	Who must notify and when?	Suspected case definition	Probable case definition	Confirmed case definition
<p>"Ebola is a hemorrhagic fever (EVD) is a severe febrile illness characterized by sudden onset of fever, and non-specific symptoms with rapid progression to bleeding and death. EVD is caused by a filovirus. Large EVD outbreaks in Central and West Africa have occurred in the last 10 years. A single imported case of EVD was documented in 1996 in a Gabonese doctor, who transmitted the disease to the South African nurse who was caring for him.</p> <p>EVD is notifiable because it is easily 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 21-day period following exposure.</p>	<p>The health care practitioner who suspects EVD 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 sudden onset of fever &gt; 38.5°C with at least three of the following signs and symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>headaches, lethargy, myalgia, or</li> <li>abdominal pain, vomiting, anorexia, loss of appetite, diarrhoea, difficulty in swallowing, hiccups, bloody diarrhoea, or</li> <li>bleeding from gums, bleeding into skin (purpura), bleeding into eyes and urine, or</li> <li>any sudden inexplicable death.</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b> a likely epidemiological exposure including any of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed Ebola case, or</li> <li>residence in—or travel to—an outbreak area (as reported on <a href="http://www.nicd.ac.za">www.nicd.ac.za</a>) within 21 days of illness onset, or</li> <li>contact with dead or sick animal (bats, rodents, or primates) or</li> <li>laboratory exposure, or</li> <li>exposure to semen from a confirmed acute or convalescent case of EVD within the 10 weeks of that person's onset of symptoms).</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>Laboratory evidence of Ebola virus infection as evidenced by any of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCR positive and virus isolation from the patient's first (single) specimen</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 laboratory suggestive evidence of Ebola virus infection by (IgM positive result on patient's first specimen).</li> </ul>

#### Additional notes

Clinicians suspecting Ebola virus disease should contact the NICD 24-hour hotline (082-883-9920) for assistance with the diagnosis. Clinicians who submit specimens for EVD testing should also complete the case investigation form that is found at <https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/viral-haemorrhagic-fever-vhf/>

#### Additional resources

The following resources are available at <https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/ebola-virus-disease/>: a frequently-asked questions (FAQ) document, Guidelines for the laboratory investigation of EVD, and the National Guidelines for Recognition and Management of EVD. Clinicians who submit specimens for EVD testing should also complete the case investigation form that is found at <https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/viral-haemorrhagic-fever-vhf/>