

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 : LUJO

Why is surveillance necessary?	Who must notify and when?	Suspected case definition	Probable case definition	Confirmed case definition
<p>Lujo (LHF) is a hemorrhagic fever caused by an arenavirus. LHF is contracted by humans through contact with virus-contaminated rodent excreta, via inhalation of dust or aerosolized materials or vomitus soiled with rodent feces and urine, or nosocomially via direct contact with infected blood, urine or pharyngeal secretions from an infected person or via ingestion of contaminated food.</p> <p>To date only five cases of LHF have been recognized and laboratory confirmed following a nosocomial outbreak in South Africa in 2008. The index case sought medical care in South Africa following onset of illness in Zambia and subsequently infected four health care workers.</p> <p>LHF 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 21-day period following exposure.</p>	<p>The health care practitioner who suspects Lassa fever 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 >38.5°C, and at least three of the following signs and symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • severe headache, myalgia, • diarrhea, • pharyngitis, abdominal pain, retrosternal chest pain, respiratory distress, • moderate thrombocytopenia, • increased AST and • leukocytosis, • proteinuria, • neurological signs or • sudden inexplicable death <p>AND a likely epidemiological exposure including any of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed Lujo case, or • contact with a dead or sick animal especially rodents within the past 21 days. 	<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 Lujo virus infection as evidenced by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCR positive and virus isolation from the patient's first (single) specimen, or • PCR positive and IgM positive result on patient's first (single) specimen, or • PCR positive on two separate specimens from the same patient collected at least one day apart, or • 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 • Increase in IgM/IgG titres between acute and convalescent specimens, or • is a suspected case with IgM positive result on patient's first specimen.
<p>Additional notes</p> <p>Clinicians suspecting Lujo haemorrhagic fever should contact the NICD 24-hour hotline (082-883-9920) for assistance with the diagnosis. Clinicians who submit specimens for LHF 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/</p>				
<p>Additional resources</p> <p>Additional resources are available at https://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/viral-haemorrhagic-fever-vhf/</p>				