

NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NMC) CASE DEFINITIONS FLIPCHART

Category 3: Written or electronic notification within 7 days of diagnosing by private and public health laboratories

WEST NILE VIRUS, SINDBIS VIRUS, CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS

Disease epidemiology	Who must notify	Confirmed case definition
<p>West Nile, sindbis and chikungunya fever are viral diseases that are transmitted to people by mosquitoes of <i>Culex</i> species (West Nile virus and sindbis virus) which mainly bite at night and <i>Aedes</i> species (Chikungunya virus), which bite during the day. In a very small number of cases, West Nile virus has also been spread through blood transfusions, organ transplants, breastfeeding and in pregnancy from mother to baby. Both West Nile and sindbis virus are maintained in bird-mosquito cycle, whereas chikungunya virus in non-human primates.</p> <p>West Nile virus occurs worldwide, except for few countries such as Australia. West Nile fever is often asymptomatic or symptoms include headache, low-grade fever, rash, joint and body pains. Encephalitis and meningitis are rare complications of West Nile virus infection, except for the USA. Horses also get incidentally infected and can develop encephalitis.</p> <p>Sindbis virus is widely distributed, being found in Africa, Europe, Asia and Australia.</p> <p>Sindbis fever can cause mild fever with joint pain, nausea, general malaise, headache, muscle pain and a unique maculopapular rash circled with pale halos, often accompanied with an itchy exanthema over the trunk and the limbs.</p> <p>Chikungunya virus is endemic in northeastern South Africa and occurs in travellers that returned from urban outbreak areas in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin-America, southern USA, Italy and France, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, India, south and south-East Asia.</p> <p>Chikungunya fever is characterised by fever and severe debilitating joint pains, often in the hands and feet and may include headache, muscle pain, joint swelling or rash.</p> <p>No vaccines and therapeutics are currently available for prevention and treatment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Health care practitioner (nurse or doctor receiving the laboratory result) ✓ Laboratory detecting the virus <p>NB: Only confirmed cases should be notified.</p>	<p>A confirmed case is a person with laboratory evidence of virus detection 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 • Four-fold increase in IgM/IgG titres between acute and convalescent specimens.