

FACT SHEET

PUBLIC INFORMATION ON CRIMEAN-CONGO HEMORRHAGIC FEVER (CCHF)

Introduction

There are confirmed cases of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in the districts of Kiboga and Nakaseke. Although CCHF is a serious disease which kills humans in a short time, it can be prevented. This fact sheet provides information on what CCHF is, how it is spread, its signs and symptoms and how it can be prevented.

Facts about Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

- The CCHF virus causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) outbreaks in humans.
- CCHF outbreaks can cause death to about 40% of the people who get the infection.
- The virus is transmitted to people from ticks and wild and domestic animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission, through contact with blood, other body secretions or tissues of infected humans or animals.
- Animals do not show any clinical signs when infected with CCHF.

- CCHF is endemic in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and Asia.
- There is no available CCHF vaccine for either people or animals.

What are the signs and symptoms of CCHF?

A person with CCHF can have the following signs & symptoms:

- Sudden on-set of high fever
- Headache
- Back pain
- Joint pain
- Abdominal pain
- Dizziness (feeling that you are losing your balance and about to fall)
- Neck pain and stiffness
- The person has been in contact with a person who has similar symptoms or animals infested with ticks, or has had a tick bite.

In addition, the person can also have any of the following:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Sore throat
- Sharp mood swings
- Confusion

- Bleeding, bruising, or a rash

After 2 or 4 days, the patient may experience sleeplessness and depression.

How is Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic fever transmitted?

CCHF is transmitted to people through:

- Bites from infected ticks
- Direct, unprotected contact with infected animals including during slaughter of animals with ticks attached
- Direct physical contact with body fluids of a person suffering from CCHF
- Direct contact with a body of a person who has died of CCHF

How can a person avoid getting Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever?

In order to prevent Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, you are advised to:

- Check yourself for ticks after working with animals and remove them immediately

- If your animals are infested with ticks spray them using a recommended acaricide to kill the ticks
- Avoid direct physical contact with body fluids such as blood, saliva, vomit, stool, urine and sweat from an infected person.
- Wash your hands with soap and clean water immediately if you get in contact with a suspected patient
- Do not use skin piercing instruments which have been used by a person suspected to have CCHF
- Avoid direct contact with dead bodies of people who have died of CCHF
- Avoid using bed linen and clothes of people who have died of CCHF

What are the roles of community leaders?

- Community leaders (LC 1) must report all suspected CCHF cases to the nearest health unit or to the mobile team

- Assist and work with all Health Units and Mobile Teams in charge of finding patients every day
- Community leaders should restrict movement of suspected cases until instructions are issued from the District Medical Office or the Ministry of Health.
- Help to educate the community on the signs and symptoms, transmission modes of CCHF and how to prevent it.
- Restrict public gatherings at markets, community burials, night clubs and public assemblies.
- Advise livestock owners to control ticks using recommended acaricides and recommended treatment scheme.
- Boil milk before drinking and cook meat properly before eating.
- In case there is a person suspected to have CCHF report to the nearest health facility immediately



What to do when somebody has died of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever?

- CCHF deaths should be reported to the nearest health facility
- Health workers will send trained burial teams to conduct the burial.

REPORT ALL SUSPECTED CASES TO THE NEAREST HEALTH FACILITY IMMEDIATELY