

IDRS Infectious Disease Reporting System

Disease Reporting 24 Hours a Day

Columbus Public Health and Franklin County Public Health

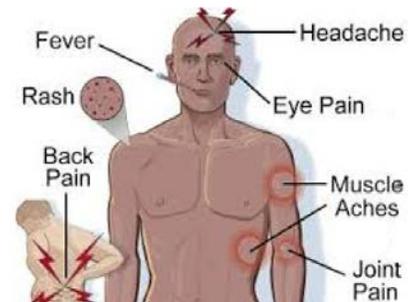
CRIMEAN CONGO HEMORRHAGIC FEVER

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is caused by infection with a tick-borne virus. The disease was first identified in the Crimea (in Eastern Europe) in 1944 and given the name Crimean hemorrhagic fever. It was then later recognized in 1969 as the cause of illness in the Congo in Africa, thus resulting in the current name of the disease. Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever is found in Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, in northwestern China, central Asia, southern Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Indian subcontinent.

Symptoms

Symptoms appear 5-13 days after exposure and include:

- Sudden headache, high fever, back and joint pain.
- Stomach pain and vomiting.
- Red eyes, a flushed face, a red throat, and red spots on roof of the mouth.
- Jaundice (yellow eyes and/or skin).
- Severe cases have changes in mood and sensory perception.
- Severe bruising, nosebleeds, and uncontrolled bleeding may occur.
- The illness lasts about 2 weeks. About 30% of patients die.



Transmission

- Humans can be infected by tick bites in affected regions.
- Animals such as cattle, goats, sheep and rabbits can also be infected. Anyone who has contact with livestock, (especially with animal blood or body fluids) in areas where CCHF is common is at risk.
- CCHF can be transmitted from one infected human to another by contact with infectious blood or body fluids. CCHF can also occur in hospitals due to reuse of medical equipment without proper sterilization.

Treatment

- Ribavirin, an antiviral drug, may be effective against CCHF.
- Treatment focuses on caring for the ill person in a secure environment. Persons with CCHF need fluids, oxygen, and support to help their bodies fight the virus.

Prevention

- Avoid exposure to ticks in affected areas by wearing light colored, protective clothing (long sleeves, long pants), and using insect repellent (repellents containing DEET work best). Regularly examine clothing and skin for ticks; if found, remove them safely.
- When handling animals or their tissues in affected regions. Always wear gloves and other protective clothing. This is especially important during slaughtering and butchering procedures. Treating animals with pesticides can also help protect animals from infection.
- Avoid close physical contact with CCHF-infected people. Wear gloves and protective equipment when taking care of ill people, and wash hands after caring for or visiting ill people.



All information is general in nature and is not intended to be used as a substitute for appropriate professional advice.



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