

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

Viral Hemorrhagic Fever: Information for Public Health Officials

A Group of Viruses

Unique Epidemiological Characteristics

- ▶ No natural reservoir in West Virginia
- ▶ A newly reported case should be urgently investigated considering:
 - ▶ travel
 - ▶ BT
- ▶ Incubation: 2-21 days
- ▶ Mortality: .5 to 90%, depending on the agent- *Emergency*
- ▶ Person-to-person transmission: by direct contact; possibly by aerosol
- ▶ Environmental: these lipid-enveloped viruses are not expected to be environmentally hardy; expert consultation recommended
- ▶ Prophylaxis: none
- ▶ Treatment: ribavirin (experimental) for arenaviruses or bunyaviridae

Laboratory confirmation:

- ▶ CDC / USAMRIID
- ▶ Implications: *use a clinical case definition to confirm cases during the early part of a reported outbreak*

Employee health

- ▶ Employees who will have direct patient contact should be supplied with an N-95 mask or a powered air-purifying respirator, gloves, gowns, eye protection, etc.

Lifesaving interventions - in order:

- ▶ Recognition / reporting / case-finding + aerosol and contact isolation
- ▶ Identification + recommendations for treatment (if appropriate)

Training considerations:

- ▶ Physicians: recognition / reporting / isolation / treatment
- ▶ ICPs: reporting, active surveillance procedures, isolation
- ▶ Local health departments, regional epidemiologists: Investigation / isolation
- ▶ IDEP / DSDC / BPH: investigation / communication / prioritization of control measure