Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus amplyfiers

**VIRAL CYCLE OF CRIMEAN-CONGO HEMORRHAGIC FEVER**

- **Tick** BITE
- **Larva**
- **Eggs**
- **Nymph**
- **Tick** BITE
- **Presumed reservoir**

**MAIN MEANS OF INFECTION**

**WILDLIFE: SMALL MAMMALS, BIRDS**

- Amplifying hosts

**WILD AND DOMESTIC RUMINANTS**

- Amplifying hosts

*The virus is maintained for about a week within the blood of an infected animal*

- **Tick-Animal-Tick Cycle**

**CONTACT**

- with the blood and other biological fluids with infected animals

- An elevated risk during:
  - Slaughter
  - Contact during animal birth
  - Veterinary interventions
  - Foetus and/or carcass removal

**HUMAN EPIDEMIC**

- **Tick** BITE
- **CONTACT** with the blood or secretions of an infected person
CRIMEAN-CONGO FEVER is a zoonosis caused by a nairovirus that can cause severe human outbreaks. Tick bites are the principal source of human infection.

**UNDERSTANDING THE CYCLE OF CRIMEAN-CONGO FEVER**

**CONCERNED SPECIES**
Humans, rabbits, birds, rodents, cattle, sheep, goats and ostriches.

**VECTOR**
Ticks, especially the genus *Hyalomma*, and the tick-animal-tick cycle can propagate the virus.

**MODES OF TRANSMISSION**
Animal to animal transmission occurs through:
- Bites from infected ticks.
- Direct animal-animal contact with bodily fluids, particularly contaminated blood.

Human transmission occurs through:
- Bites from infected ticks.
- Direct contact with the blood or organs of infected animals.

Inter-human transmission occurs through direct contact with the blood and other bodily fluids, secretions and organs of an infected person.

**PEOPLE AT RISK**
People involved in raising animals, including agricultural workers, slaughterhouse staff, and veterinarians are often among the most at risk.

**CLINICAL SIGNS**

**WARNING SIGNS in animals**
- Infection is asymptomatic in the majority of animals.

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**PRINCIPAL SYMPTOMS in humans**
- **Incubation period:**
  - After a tick bite: 1 to 3 days (max. 9 days).
  - After contact with infected tissues: 5 to 6 days (max. 13 days).
- **1st symptomatic phase:** fever, muscle aches, dizziness, stiffness in the neck, back pain, headache, eye tenderness and photophobia. In some cases, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, sore throat, bradycardia, sudden mood swings and confusion.
- **2nd symptomatic phase (after 2-4 days):** drowsiness, depression, lassitude, abdominal pain located in the upper right quadrant, tachycardia, lymphadenopathy, petechial rash and bruising (mouth, throat, on the skin).
- **3rd symptomatic phase (severe forms of the disease, after 5 days):** Hepatic, renal and pulmonary insufficiency which can lead to death in about two weeks.
- **Duration of symptoms:** Up to 12 days.

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU SUSPECT A CASE IN LIVESTOCK?**

1. **ADHERE TO GOOD PRACTICES** for personal protection (gloves, protective clothing), especially when visiting slaughterhouses and delivering veterinary services.
2. **COLLECT SAMPLES**, if possible, and send them to the national veterinary laboratory or a reference laboratory.
3. **ENSURE GOOD COORDINATION** between Wildlife Services, Veterinary Services and Public Health Services.
4. **NOTIFY WOAH** by e-mail or fax or through WAHIS of every confirmed case of a WOAH-listed disease (like Crimean-Congo Fever) as per Article 1.1.3 of WOAH Terrestrial Code.

**WHAT MESSAGES SHOULD YOUR SHARE WITH AT-RISK COMMUNITIES?**

1. **APPLY ACARICIDES**, if available, TO LIVESTOCK to reduce the tick population.
2. **EXAMINE YOURSELF, CHILDREN AND LIVESTOCK FOR TICKS** after each visit to the forest. Remove ticks with sharp tweezers.
3. **CUT ALL TALL VEGETATION** near homes.
4. **PROTECT YOUR HANDS AND ANY EXPOSED SKIN** when handling sick or dead livestock.

**CRIMEAN-CONGO FEVER**

After a tick bite, humans should go to the nearest health center at the first sign of illness.