



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.

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

→ 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 WOAHP BY E-MAIL OR FAX OR THROUGH WAHIS** of every confirmed case of a WOAHP-listed disease (like Crimean-Congo Fever) as per Article 1.1.3 of WOAHP Terrestrial Code.

WHAT MESSAGES SHOULD YOU 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.