

Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever

Abattoirs: CCHF



Ebola is still limited to parts of Africa

A hemorrhagic rash appears over entire body



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WHAT IS CRIMEAN-CONGO HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER?

- A viral disease that causes severe haemorrhagic fever in people
- Many species of animals can be infected with the virus, such as cattle, sheep, goats and ostriches
- Animals become infected through the bite of certain ticks that carry the virus
- The virus does not appear to cause clinical disease in animals.



CCHF in humans

- People become infected with CCHF through several routes making it very concerning:
 - Tick bites from infected ticks
 - Contact with infected animal blood or tissues
 - Close contact with the blood and fluids of infected humans
 - Even from contaminated equipment!
- Typically infected people have a sudden onset of symptoms:
 - Initially fever, muscle pain, dizziness, neck pain and stiffness, headache, sensitivity to light
 - This can be followed by nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea along with mood swings and confusion
 - After two to four days, severe abdominal pain, depression, rash and internal bleeding
- The disease has a high death rate, 30% of patients that become infected will die
 - Those that recover tend to show improvement after around 10 days of illness
- There is no specific treatment for this virus, only supportive care
- **Prevention is key** however it is difficult to control this virus due to the widespread occurrence of ticks that carry the virus and the fact that infection in our livestock is typically undetected due to a lack of clinical disease in animals
- The only way to reduce infection in people is through raising awareness of this disease and the risk factors associated with it
- To reduce the risk of getting CCHF from ticks:
 - Avoid tick abundant areas where possible otherwise wear protective clothing (long



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- sleeves, trousers) and an approved tick repellent on clothing
- Regularly examine your skin for ticks if you have been in areas where ticks are abundant or handling animals
- Eliminate or control tick infestations on animals or their environment through approved methods
- To reduce the risk of getting CCHF from animals:
 - Wear protective clothing when handling animals or their tissues
 - Quarantine animals before entering slaughterhouses or treat animals with pesticides two weeks prior to slaughter to remove the tick burden
- To reduce the risk of getting CCHF from people:
 - Avoid close contact with infected people or people showing signs suspicious of CCHF
 - Wear gloves and protective clothing if caring for infected people
 - Wash hands regularly with soap and water

Reference: World Health Organisation. Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever. 2024.
<https://www.afro.who.int/health-topics/crimean-congo-haemorrhagic-fever>

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