

# High Threat Pathogen (HTP) Risk Assessment Algorithm for Community-based Clinic Settings

In the event there is imminent risk of a HTP in B.C., a directive from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer will inform health system partners/organizations of this risk and provide guidance to follow, including the requirement to initiate screening. Use this algorithm for anyone that presents to a community-based clinic with symptoms of a HTP, such as Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF), or concerns about an exposure.

## SCENARIO

# A

## Person calls a health care provider

concerned about or exposed to a **High Threat Pathogen (HTP)** such as Viral Hemorrhagic Fever (VHF).

**BBF** = Blood and Body Fluids

**MHO** = Medical Health Officer

### In the last 21 days, has the patient:

- Lived in or travelled to/from a region with active transmission of HTP? **OR**
- Had contact with a person (BBF or human remains) known or suspected to have HTP? **OR**
- Had contact with an animal known or suspected to have HTP? **OR**
- Been told to self-monitor for HTP?

*See page 2 for more details*

**YES**

**NO**

### Any symptoms of HTP?

*See page 2 for more details*

### Routine assessment protocol

- **Continue** with routine triage and patient care.
- If they have symptoms, assess for other potential infectious disease (e.g., malaria).

**YES**

**NO**

### Has symptoms

- Advise patient not to come to the clinic.

#### IF MEDICALLY STABLE:

- **Advise** patient to go to nearest acute care facility. Determine how patient will get to the facility.
- **Notify** receiving facility of patient's arrival.

#### IF MEDICALLY UNSTABLE:

- **Advise** patient to call 911 and let dispatch know they are suspected of having HTP and need immediate care.
- **Contact MHO** urgently to assist with risk assessment and advise on appropriate referral.

### No symptoms

- **Determine** if patient needs to be seen in person for clinical assessment.
- **Consult** public health and provide with patient's contact information, if needed.

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## Scenario A: Person calls a primary care provider



### MHO PHONE NUMBERS

(for health care providers)

#### Fraser Health

**Business hours:** 1-866-990-9941

**After business hours:** 604-527-4806

#### Interior Health

**24/7:** 1-866-457-5648

#### Island Health

**Business hours:** see Medical Health Officers

[www.islandhealth.ca/about-us/medical-health-officers](http://www.islandhealth.ca/about-us/medical-health-officers)

**After business hours:** 1-800-204-6166

#### Northern Health

**Business hours:** 250-645-3794

**After business hours:** 250-565-2000, press 7, ask for the MHO on call

#### Vancouver Coastal Health

**Mon–Fri, 8:30am–5:00pm:** 604-675-3900

**After business hours:** 604-527-4893

### Patient information to collect:

- Name
- Phone number(s)
- Email
- Street address
- Emergency contact

### Screening questions

1. Has the person travelled to or from a region that is experiencing cases (active transmission) of the VHF within the past 21 days? **OR**
2. Has the person had contact with BBF or human remains of a person known to have or suspected to have a VHF within the past 21 days (e.g., caring for person with a VHF, close contact in household/health care facility/community setting with a symptomatic person, sexual contact, laboratory worker handling the pathogen or body fluids from a person with a VHF)? **OR**
3. Has the person had contact with an animal known or suspected to have a VHF within the past 21 days (e.g., handling of bats, rodents, or primates from disease-affected areas, or tick bites from disease-affected areas)? **OR**
4. Has the person been told to self-monitor for VHF within the past 21 days?

### VHF signs & symptoms

- **Fever** of greater than 38 degrees Celsius **OR**
- **At least one of the following:** subjective fever, malaise, myalgia, headache, arthralgia, fatigue, loss of appetite, conjunctival redness, sore throat, chest pain, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea that can be bloody, hemorrhage, or erythematous maculopapular rash on the trunk.

### For complete guidance and more info:

- **Primary Care guidelines:** [www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/ebola](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/ebola)
- **For current outbreak information:** Visit the World Health Organization (WHO) website at [www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news](http://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news)

**REMINDER:** You can refer patients to call 811 for general health concerns.