

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

SCENARIO

B

Person arrives at primary care clinic

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

HCW = Health Care Worker

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?

*If uncertain, contact MHO
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

Isolate & call MHO

- Immediately support patient to perform **hand hygiene and wear medical mask**, if tolerated
- HCW to **wear appropriate PPE**
- If not well enough to return to own vehicle, place patient in **private exam room** with dedicated washroom, if available).
- **Allow** accompanying persons to remain with the patient until assessment is completed.
- **Call MHO immediately and urgently**

No symptoms

- **Continue** with routine triage process and patient care.
- **Advise** patient that Public Health will call them with advice. Release patient and advise to contact clinic if additional concerns.
- **Call MHO** to provide patient's contact info and assessment details.

MHO advises further investigation?

NO

Routine assessment protocol

YES

Transfer to Emergency

- Ask patient to go to the hospital (Emergency Department) in their own vehicle, or call an ambulance or 911.

- **Notify** ambulance dispatch and receiving hospital that a "person under investigation for HTP" is being referred
- **Clean and disinfect** the room person was isolated in before using again

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Scenario B: Person arrives at primary care clinic

NOTES FOR HCW:

Avoid performing any clinical interventions or procedures that may put the HCW or others in direct contact with patient's BBF.

If direct patient contact is necessary:

- Follow PPE guidance based on clinical presentation.
- Only essential personnel with appropriate training and PPE should enter the patient room.



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

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
- **For current outbreak information:** Visit the World Health Organization (WHO) website at www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news

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