

What is hemorrhagic fever?

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is the most widespread tick-borne viral disease affecting humans. The CCHF virus is transmitted to people either by tick bites or through contact with infected animal blood or tissues during and immediately after slaughter. The majority of cases have occurred in people involved in the livestock industry, such as agricultural workers, slaughterhouse workers, and veterinarians. CCHF outbreaks have a case fatality rate of up to 40%. So far, there is no vaccine available for either people or animals.^[1]

SYMPTOMS



FEVER &
HEADACHE



MUSCLE
ACHE



DIZZINESS



SORE EYES



VOMITING

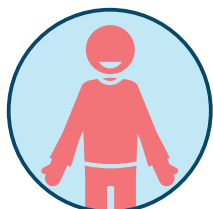


DIARRHEA



BLEEDING &
BRUISING

PREVENTION METHODS



LONG SLEEVES, LONG
TROUSERS, SOCKS



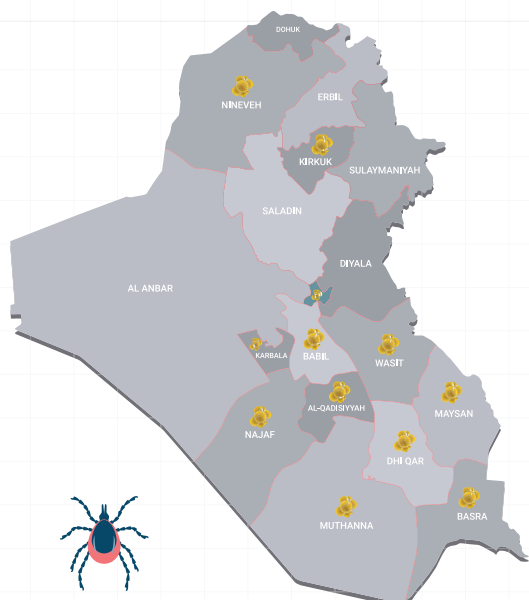
AVOID PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH
CCHF-INFECTED PEOPLE



WASH HANDS REGULARLY
AFTER VISITING ILL PEOPLE



DON'T TOUCH ANIMALS
AND RAW MEAT



Country Update:

From January 1st to May 22nd, 2022, **212 cases** of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) have been reported to the WHO by the Iraqi health authorities of which **169 (80%)** were reported in April and May alone, in which 115 were suspected and **97** were laboratory confirmed. **27** deaths occurred overall, of which 13 were in laboratory-confirmed cases. Among confirmed cases, most had direct contact with animals and were livestock breeders or butchers.^[2]

In response to the outbreak, Iraq has issued stricter hygiene standards for livestock slaughterhouses, which ban the slaughter of livestock outside the designated places. Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi has allocated one billion Iraqi dinars to combat the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever; mainly to purchase pesticides and support the campaign to address hemorrhagic fever and reduce its effects.^[3]



“

CCHF is an artificial virus same as the COVID-19 virus, so let's see when they will come out with a vaccine. Anyway, be careful, it is not only the meat, come and convince me why only the meat has the virus at a time when the milk is coming from the same cow and doesn't have the virus. Avoid milk, meat, and yogurt because they all transmit the current artificial virus until they find a solution for us with a second mandatory vaccine.

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From Facebook

FACT-CHECKING



- CCHF has a long history in which it was first characterized in Crimea in 1944 and given the name Crimean hemorrhagic fever. It was then later recognized in 1969 as the cause of illness in the Congo, thus resulting in the current name of the disease.
- The virus is primarily transmitted to people from ticks and livestock animals. Human-to-human transmission can occur resulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected persons.
- There have been a few reports of infection after drinking unpasteurized milk or after consumption of raw meat from freshly slaughtered livestock.^[4]
- Both Iraq and the IKR Ministry of Health circulated official letters about rules and regulations for combatting Hemorrhagic fever to all health directories in 18 districts of Iraq which shows the seriousness of the new virus.

Sources

1. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/crimean-congo-haemorrhagic-fever>
2. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2022-DON386#:~:text=Between%20%20January%20to%20%2022,13in%20laboratory%20confirmed%20cases.>
3. <https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/28052022>
4. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/crimean-congo-haemorrhagic-fever/facts/factsheet>

RECOMMENDATION



- ▶ There is much false information about the CCHF that is spread on social media, therefore, people have to receive the information from trustworthy sources such as the Ministry of Health and WHO.
- ▶ In case of any concerns and queries, people should contact the Ministry of Health's hotline: 122 (with your area code, for example: Erbil 066122).
- ▶ Community health workers have to provide awareness sessions inside and outside clinics to the community on how to protect themselves from the virus.
- ▶ People who have direct contact with animals, especially cattle, sheep, and goats, must follow rules and regulations of both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, especially during slaughtering and milk pasteurization.
- ▶ Since Eid al-Adha is due on July 10th, community members, especially IDPs inside the camps, have to be extra careful about the safe meat preparation including holding meat at 8-4°C for 24 hours after slaughter and always cooking meat and other animal tissues thoroughly.

Hotline

122



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