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HEALTH ADVISORY: First Marburg Virus Outbreak in the Republic of Rwanda

October 8, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

We hope this message finds you well. Benton County is sharing an Oregon Health Authority (OHA)/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Marburg virus disease Health Alert Network (HAN) advisory.

The Republic of Rwanda reported their first confirmed outbreak of [Marburg virus disease \(MVD\)](#). As of October 2, 2024, the outbreak included 36 lab-confirmed cases and 11 deaths, including 19 cases in healthcare workers. To date, there are no confirmed cases of MVD associated with the Republic of Rwanda outbreak in the United States or other countries. **MVD risk is currently low in the United States.** However, clinicians should be aware of the potential for cases associated with international travel.

MVD key points include (not exhaustive): a) MVD is a rare but severe hemorrhagic fever that can cause serious illness and death. b) Symptoms can be similar to other tropical diseases, making diagnosis challenging. c) There is no treatment or vaccine for Marburg. d) The disease spreads through contact with infected animals or people.

OHA/CDC key recommendations included (list not exhaustive):

- **Post-arrival monitoring by state health departments and exclusion from work duties in a U.S. healthcare facility until 21 days after their last presence in a healthcare facility in Rwanda.**
- Review [CDC's guidance on sending US-personnel to areas with VHF outbreaks](#).
- Review [CDC's interim MVD guidance for healthcare personnel returning from Rwanda](#).

Please immediately report (day or night) any healthcare personnel returning from work in a Rwandan healthcare facility to Benton County Health Department at: **541-766-6654**.

The full OHA HAN can be reviewed below. We appreciate your diligence in protecting the health of our collective communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carolina Amador".

Carolina Amador, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Holland".

April Holland
Public Health Administrator



CDC HAN ALERT: First Marburg Virus Disease Outbreak in the Republic of Rwanda

Dear Colleagues,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory](#) to inform clinicians and health departments about the Republic of Rwanda's first confirmed outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) with 36 laboratory confirmed cases and 11 deaths reported as of October 2, 2024, including at least 19 cases in healthcare workers. The health advisory summarizes CDC's recommendations for public health departments and clinicians in the United States on case identification and testing and clinical laboratory biosafety considerations. **No confirmed cases of MVD related to this outbreak have been reported in the United States or other countries outside of the Republic of Rwanda to date. Currently, the risk of MVD in the United States is very low; however, clinicians should be aware of the potential for imported cases.**

[MVD](#) is a rare but highly fatal viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF). A person infected with the Marburg virus is not contagious before symptoms appear. [Symptoms](#) may include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding. [Marburg virus is spread](#) through direct contact with broken skin or mucous membranes with the body fluids of someone who is sick with MVD, or who recently died from their infection. These body fluids include blood, urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, amniotic fluid, or semen. People can also contract MVD if they have contact with infected animals, or with needles, or with other objects or surfaces contaminated with the virus. Marburg virus is not spread through airborne transmission. There is currently no Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved vaccine or treatment for MVD. In the absence of early diagnosis and appropriate supportive care, MVD has a high mortality rate of 23%–90%, depending on the virus strain and the level of case management. With early intensive supportive care and fluid replacement, mortality rates might be lower.

1. CDC has reached out to U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations and medical centers with staff working in the affected areas to provide [guidance on education and how to conduct health assessments of U.S.-based staff before, during, and after their deployment](#). On October 3, 2024, CDC issued [interim recommendations for public health management of U.S.-based healthcare personnel who were present in a healthcare facility in Rwanda in the previous 21 days](#). **These interim recommendations include post-arrival monitoring by state health departments and exclusion from work duties in a U.S. healthcare facility until 21 days after their last presence in a healthcare facility in Rwanda.**

The linked and attached HAN includes recommendations for the following groups:

1. Clinicians
2. Infection Prevention and Control Measures in Hospitals
3. Public Health Departments
4. Clinical Laboratory Biosafety
5. Healthcare Workers Returning from Work in Rwanda

6. Travelers

For More Information

General Marburg Information

1. [About Marburg Disease | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
2. [History of Marburg Disease Outbreaks | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
3. [Marburg in Rwanda | Travel Notice | Traveler's Health | CDC](#)

Clinician Resources

1. [Clinical Guidance for Ebola Disease | CDC](#)
2. [Recommendations for organizations sending U.S.-based healthcare or emergency response personnel to areas with viral hemorrhagic fever \(VHF\) outbreaks | CDC](#)
3. [Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers | CDC Yellow Book 2024](#)
4. [Marburg Virus Disease: Interim Recommendations for Public Health Management of U.S.-based Healthcare Personnel Returning from Rwanda](#)

U.S. Healthcare Settings

1. [Interim Guidance for Preparing Frontline Healthcare Facilities for Patients Suspected to Have Ebola Virus Disease \(EVD\) | CDC](#)
2. [Interim Guidance for Preparing Ebola Assessment Hospitals | CDC](#)

Non-U.S. Healthcare Settings

1. [Preparing Your Facility for Identification of Potential MVD Patients | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
2. [Preventing MVD from Entering Your Healthcare Facility | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
3. [Healthcare Worker and Inpatient Monitoring | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
4. [Environmental Cleaning and Waste Management | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
5. [Hand Hygiene | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
6. [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
7. [PPE Part 1: What, When, and Why to Use PPE | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
8. [PPE Part 2: Putting on and Taking Off PPE | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
9. [Waste Management Part 1: The Waste Management Process | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
10. [Waste Management Part 2: Final Waste Disposal | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)
11. [Injection Safety | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC](#)

U.S. Public Health Departments

1. [Public Health Management of People with Suspected or Confirmed VHF or High-Risk Exposures | CDC](#)

Unless otherwise noted, please share this HAN notification with:

- **Others within your organization.**
- **Professionals within your health, preparedness, and response affiliations.**

Oregon 24/7 disease reporting: 971-673-1111