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Ebola virus disease case definition for reporting in EU

The classification of cases under this definition relies on clinical, epidemiological, laboratory and high-risk exposure criteria, allowing the identification of persons required to be investigated for EVD and the differentiation of probable and confirmed cases for reporting. The definition aims to classify cases for epidemiological reporting.

Criteria

Clinical criteria

Any person currently presenting or having presented before death:

- Fever $\geq 38.6^{\circ}\text{C}$

AND any of the following:

- Severe headache
- Vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain
- Unexplained haemorrhagic manifestations in various forms
- Multi-organ failure

OR a person who died suddenly and inexplicably

Laboratory criteria

Any of the following:

- Detection of Ebola virus nucleic acid in a clinical specimen and confirmation by sequencing or a second assay on different genomic targets.
- Isolation of Ebola virus from a clinical specimen.

Epidemiological criteria

In the 21 days before the onset of symptoms:

- having been in an [affected area](#);

OR

- having had contact with a probable or confirmed EVD case.

High-risk exposure criteria

Any of the following:

- close face-to-face contact (e.g. within one metre) without appropriate personal protective equipment (including eye protection) with a probable or confirmed case who was coughing, vomiting, bleeding, or who had diarrhoea; or had unprotected sexual contact with a case up to three months after recovery;
- direct contact with any material soiled by bodily fluids from a probable or confirmed case;
- percutaneous injury (e.g. with needle) or mucosal exposure to bodily fluids, tissues or laboratory specimens of a probable or confirmed case;
- participation in funeral rites with direct exposure to human remains in or from an affected area without appropriate personal protective equipment;
- direct contact with bats, rodents, primates, living or dead, in or from affected areas, or bushmeat.

Person under investigation

A person

- meeting the clinical and the epidemiological criteria;

OR

- with high-risk exposure and any of the listed symptoms, including fever of any grade.

Case classification for reporting at EU level

Only confirmed cases are to be reported at the European level using the EWRS. The 'probable case' classification is provided for information only.

Possible case

- Not Applicable.

Probable case

- A person meeting the clinical and high-risk exposure criteria.

Confirmed case

- A person meeting the laboratory criteria.

References

[EU case definition for viral haemorrhagic fevers](#). Commission Implementing Decision 2012/506/EU of 8 August 2012, amending Decision 2002/253/EC laying down case definitions for reporting communicable diseases to the Community network under Decision No 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. (p48)

[CDC - Case definition for Ebola virus disease 2014-08-07](#)

[WHO - Case definition recommendations for Ebola or Marburg Virus Diseases 2014-04-09](#)