



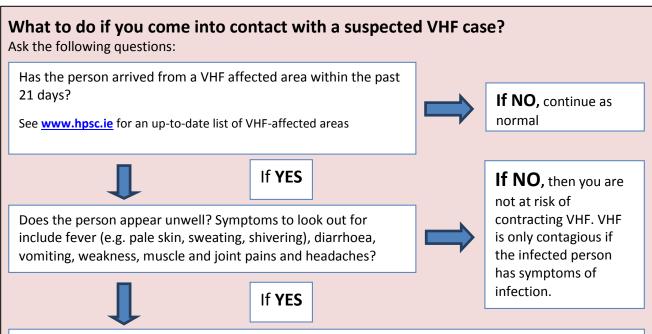
Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF)

Advice for Community (Non-Acute Healthcare) Settings

This guidance is for all individuals in the community setting who may through their job or social interaction, come in contact with a person who may be infected with Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers (VHF).

Key Messages:

- The likelihood of contracting VHF in Ireland is extremely low but it is important to be prepared.
- VHF is is not spread through the air. It is only spread if there is direct contact with the blood or body fluids (saliva, urine, faeces, vomit, semen, breast milk) of a person who is sick with VHF.
- If you do come in contact with a suspected VHF case, follow the flow diagram below which outlines the basic steps you should take in case of such an event.



- 1. Talk Don't Touch. Maintain a distance of <u>at least 3 feet/ 1 metre</u> from the person (unless the person is vomiting then maintain a distance of 7-10 feet/ 2-3 metres)
- **2. Isolate the person** (e.g. Move the person into a side room, ideally with a toilet and telephone to enable telephone assessment if necessary)
- **3.** Call an ambulance. Tell them that the ill person has recently returned from a VHF-affected area
- **4. Handwashing** with soap and water is an important method for protecting yourself and your community from the spread of VHF
- 5. Advice on environmental cleaning can be found on the HPSC website

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