

## DEFINITION OF EXPOSURE CATEGORIES

### Definition of high risk exposure

- 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 is coughing, vomiting, bleeding, or who has diarrhoea
- direct contact (of exposed mucous membranes or non-intact skin) with body fluids or any materials soiled by body fluids from a probable or confirmed case
- percutaneous injury (e.g. with a needle) or mucosal exposure to body fluids (including mouth-to-mouth kissing), tissues, or laboratory specimens of a probable or confirmed case
- participation in autopsy, resuscitation or funeral rites with direct contact with human remains, including body fluids, in or from affected area without appropriate personal protective equipment;
- has had unprotected sexual contact with a case within three months after the case has recovered from Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF);
- direct contact with bush meat, or bats or primates, living or dead in/from affected areas.

### Definition of low risk exposure

- Close face-to-face or physical contact (including skin-to-skin contact, such as hugging or shaking hands) with a symptomatic case who has no coughing, vomiting, bleeding or diarrhoea.
- Household contact of a symptomatic case
- Other settings such as classroom or office room level contact with a symptomatic case, subject to risk assessment.
- Casual or physical contact with a feverish but ambulant and self-caring VHF case (e.g. sharing a seating area including airplane transport; receptionist tasks etc.)

### Definition of healthcare workers with occupational exposure

Occupational exposure of anyone working in a healthcare setting involved in caring for a case of VHF, *or* dealing with inanimate objects contaminated or possibly contaminated with blood and/or body fluids, *or* laboratory workers processing specimens of a VHF case while using appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is considered to be a low risk exposure.

However, given the continuous nature of the occupational exposure for some staff when caring for VHF patients, such healthcare workers will be actively monitored in the same way as those contacts with a high risk exposure.

Occupational exposure of anyone working in a healthcare setting involved in caring for a case of VHF, *or* dealing with inanimate objects contaminated or possibly contaminated with blood and/or body fluids, *or* laboratory workers processing specimens of a VHF case where

- there is a breach in PPE (e.g. needle-stick injury)
- or*
- when not wearing appropriate PPE

is considered to be a high risk exposure.

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