

Health Advisory: First Reported Marburg Virus Outbreak in Ethiopia

Minnesota Department of Health, Fri, Dec 5, 11:00 CST 2025

Action Steps

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please forward to infection prevention, infectious disease, primary care, internal medicine, emergency medicine, urgent care, and all other health care providers who might see patients presenting for assessment of illness following return from travel.

Health care providers:

- Obtain a detailed travel and exposure history from patients with an acute febrile illness, especially those who have been in affected areas of Ethiopia within 21 days prior to symptom onset, while also evaluating for more common causes of febrile illnesses.
- Place patients in a private room with the door closed and contact MDH immediately at **651-201-5414** or **1-877-676-5414** if Marburg virus disease (MVD) is being considered in the differential diagnosis of a returned traveler from Ethiopia.
- Counsel patients with planned travel to an MVD outbreak-affected area on prevention including avoiding contact with sick people or their blood and body fluids. If traveling to an MVD outbreak-affected area, counsel travelers to monitor their health while in the area and for 21 days after returning.

Situation Summary

- [CDC: Health Alert - First Reported Outbreak Caused by Marburg Virus in Ethiopia](https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00525.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00525.html>)

On November 14, 2025, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health declared a Marburg virus disease (MVD) outbreak in the country's South Ethiopia and Sidama regions. This is the first reported outbreak of MVD in Ethiopia. As of December 3, 2025, Ethiopia has reported 13 laboratory confirmed cases, eight of which were fatal. No confirmed cases of MVD related to this outbreak have been reported in the United States or other countries outside of Ethiopia to date. MVD is a rare but highly fatal viral hemorrhagic fever. The incubation period ranges from 2 to 21 days after exposure. Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding. Currently, the risk of MVD in the United States is low. However, clinicians should be aware of the potential for imported cases from travelers returning home to Minnesota after visiting affected areas in Ethiopia. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with the Ethiopian health authorities to support the response to this outbreak, which includes screening, isolation of cases, contact tracing, airport exit screening, and public awareness campaigns to curb the spread of MVD. As of December 3, 2025, CDC is not recommending additional assessments or monitoring of travelers arriving from Ethiopia by state health departments. If MVD is being considered in the differential diagnosis of an ill returned traveler per the clinician recommendations below, please contact MDH immediately at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414.

Recommendations for Health Care Facilities

- Review CDC guidance on infection prevention and control for hospitalized patients under investigation for viral hemorrhagic fevers: [CDC: Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients in U.S. Hospitals who are Suspected or Confirmed to have Selected Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHF\)](https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/hcp/infection-control/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/hcp/infection-control/index.html>).
- Review the updated training materials in the [MDH: High Consequence Infectious Disease \(HCID\) Toolbox for Frontline Healthcare Facilities](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/index.html>) for preparedness planning and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Recommendations for Clinicians

- If MVD is being considered in the differential diagnosis of an ill returned traveler from Ethiopia per the clinician recommendations below, **please contact MDH immediately at 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414**. If a diagnosis of MVD is considered, MDH will work with CDC and the clinical team to coordinate care and testing for the patient and ensure appropriate precautions are taken to help prevent potential spread.
- Systematically assess patients with exposure risk and compatible symptoms for the possibility of viral hemorrhagic fevers, including MVD, through a triage and evaluation process including a travel history.
 - A travel flag in electronic health records is very helpful for quickly identifying patients who have recently visited areas with VHF outbreaks, enabling timely detection and infection control.
 - See MDH: High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) Toolbox for Frontline Health Care Facilities for updated resources for clinicians, including a guide for the clinical assessment of a patient with a suspected high consequence infectious disease, including MVD ([MDH: Clinical Assessment of a Patient with Suspected HCID](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/assess.pdf) <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/assess.pdf>).
- Consider more common diagnoses such as malaria, COVID-19, influenza, or common causes of gastrointestinal and febrile illnesses in an ill patient with recent international travel and evaluate and manage appropriately.
- Include MVD in the differential diagnosis for an ill person who has been to an area with an active MVD outbreak in the past 21 days, AND who has compatible symptoms (e.g., fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, loss of appetite, gastrointestinal symptoms, or unexplained bleeding), AND who has reported epidemiologically compatible risk factors like any one or more of the below, within the 21 days before symptom onset:
 - Had direct contact with a symptomatic person with suspected or confirmed MVD, or with any objects contaminated by their body fluids.
 - Experienced a breach in infection prevention and control precautions that resulted in the potential for contact with body fluids of a patient with suspected or confirmed MVD.
 - Participated in any of the following activities while in an area with an active MVD outbreak:
 - Had contact with someone who was sick or died or with any objects contaminated by their body fluids.

- Attended or participated in funeral rituals, including preparing bodies for funeral or burial.
 - Visited or worked in a health care facility or laboratory.
 - Had contact with cave-dwelling bats or non-human primates (e.g., monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas).
 - Worked or spent time in a mine or cave.
- If MVD is being considered in the differential diagnosis of an ill returned traveler from Ethiopia, patients should be placed in a private room with a private bathroom with the door closed. Patients should be cared for by personnel wearing appropriate PPE.
- Travel to or from Ethiopia in the past 21 days should not be a reason to defer other routine or indicated laboratory testing (e.g., malaria testing, blood cultures) or other measures necessary for standard patient care.
- Counsel patients with planned travel to an MVD outbreak-affected area on prevention including avoiding contact with sick people or their blood and body fluids. If traveling to an MVD outbreak-affected area, counsel travelers to monitor their health while in the area and for 21 days after returning.
 - Refer to [CDC: Marburg in Ethiopia: Level 1 Travel Notice](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level1/marburg-ethiopia) (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level1/marburg-ethiopia>) for traveler advice, including preventive measures to take and symptoms for self-monitoring after return.

For more information

- [CDC: Health Alert - First Reported Outbreak Caused by Marburg Virus in Ethiopia](https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00525.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/notices/han00525.html>)
- [CDC: Marburg in Ethiopia](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level1/marburg-ethiopia) (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/level1/marburg-ethiopia>)
- [CDC: Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients in U.S. Hospitals who are Suspected or Confirmed to have Selected Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers \(VHF\)](https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/hcp/infection-control/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/hcp/infection-control/index.html>)
- [MDH: High Consequence Infectious Disease \(HCID\) Toolbox for Frontline Health Care Facilities](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/index.html>)

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network](http://www.health.state.mn.us/han) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/han>)
The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.