

# General Practice Risk Assessment for Emerging Viral Threats: Avian influenza, MERS-CoV, Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers

Use Standard Precautions\* for all patients at all times [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)

**IF FEVER OR HISTORY OF FEVER**

**TAKE TRAVEL HISTORY**

Recent travel ( $\leq 14$  days), to Middle East countries or China; or ( $\leq 21$  days) to Africa.\*\*

**IF YES**

**STOP**

**Protect Against Infection**

**Isolate the patient and put on personal protective equipment:  
gloves, long sleeved gown, face mask with visor, or mask and goggles**

## CLINICAL ASSESSMENT- Avian Influenza/MERS-CoV

1. Fever or history of fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  
AND
2. Clinical signs of pneumonia (cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing) and/or diarrhoea

Fits travel criteria, but only **mild** respiratory symptoms

### Patient to:

- Self isolate
- Avoid those with chronic medical conditions, or immuno-suppressed
- Practice good hand hygiene, cough etiquette
- **Contact GP or GP Out of Hours if not improving or condition deteriorates**

## CLINICAL ASSESSMENT- Viral Haemorrhagic Fever (VHF)

1. Fever or history of fever ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  
AND/OR
2. Bruising, bleeding, diarrhoea and vomiting

**IF YES**

### Refer to hospital

- Inform ED/admitting team, infection prevention and control team **in advance**
- Inform ambulance service (if applicable)
- **Inform local Public Health Department** (See side panel for contact details).

## Public Health Contact Details

**HSE-E:** 01-635 2145  
01-670 9111\*

**HSE-M:** 057-935 9891  
057-935 8165/6\*

**HSE-MW:** 061-48 3338  
087-669911

**HSE NE:** 046-907 6412  
086-606 2537

**HSE-NW:** 071-985 2900  
087-953 7807

**HSE-SE:** 056-778 4142  
1890-499 199\*

**HSE-S:** 021-492 7601  
021-464 0836\*

**HSE-W:** 091-775 200  
094-906 3000\*

\*Out of hours contact public health via ambulance control

## Cleaning and Disinfection after Discharge/Transfer

Clean and disinfect all patient care equipment used in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. Wipe surfaces in the examining room that have been in contact with the patient with a general purpose detergent and water followed by wiping with a hypochlorite solution 1/10 dilution (1000 ppm)



\*Standard precautions include [respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette](#).

\*\* See [ECDC Communicable Disease Threat Report](#) for emerging threats and [HPSC website](#) for VHF endemic areas and outbreaks. Please note that one type of VHF, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) is also found outside Africa, including in Asia, the Middle East and in Eastern Europe.