

DATE: November 26, 2025

TO: Hospitals, Laboratories, Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Infection Control Practitioners, Urgent Care, Primary Care Providers, Director of Nursing, Local Health Departments

FROM: New York State Department of Health, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department)

HEALTH ADVISORY:
Outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease in Ethiopia

SUMMARY

- On November 14, 2025, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization declared an outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD), a rare but highly fatal viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF), in the Southern Region of Ethiopia near the border with South Sudan.
- In response, the New York State and New York City Health Departments recommend that healthcare providers:
 - Continue to screen all individuals with acute febrile illness for recent international travel.
 - Immediately report anyone with symptoms compatible with MVD who traveled to [affected areas in Ethiopia](#) in the last 21 days to their local health department.
 - Refer to the [Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Health Advisory](#) for detailed clinical guidance regarding triage, infection prevention and control, evaluation, and laboratory testing for people with suspected MVD.
 - Unless otherwise directed by the health department, do not delay routine clinical laboratory testing, including for suspected infectious diseases (e.g., malaria), and continue to offer routine care (e.g., bathing) for all people, regardless of recent travel to Ethiopia.

CURRENT SITUATION

Outbreak summary:

- On November 14, 2025, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and the [World Health Organization](#) declared an outbreak of MVD in Jinka, which is in the Southern Region of Ethiopia near to border with South Sudan.
 - According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, as of November 24, 2025, a total of 10 confirmed cases of MVD have been reported, including five deaths.
 - At least two cases are in healthcare workers.
- No cases of MVD related to this outbreak have been reported in the United States or other countries outside of Ethiopia.
- According to the World Health Organization, this is the first reported outbreak of MVD in Ethiopia.
- Preliminary results show that the virus is related to other Marburg virus strains that have been identified previously in East Africa.

Response to the current outbreak:

- Ethiopian and regional health authorities have initiated responses to the area, including enhanced surveillance, field investigations, laboratory testing capacity, and infection prevention and control resources.

CLINICAL GUIDANCE FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

New York healthcare providers should:

- Obtain a detailed travel history from people with symptoms compatible with MVD.
 - Early "dry" symptoms may include fever, aches, pains, and fatigue, and later "wet" symptoms may include diarrhea, vomiting, and unexplained bleeding.
 - Recent travelers who have had contact with someone with suspected or confirmed MVD, including healthcare workers, are considered high risk for developing disease.
- Restrict access to the room in which a symptomatic person is isolated if clinical and epidemiologic risk factors support a suspicion of MVD, minimize the number of staff who interact with the individual, and keep a list of staff who do.
- Immediately report anyone with symptoms compatible with MVD and travel to [affected areas in Ethiopia](#) in the last 21 days to the health department by calling the following phone number:
 - For people residing in New York City (NYC):
 - NYC Health Department Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641
 - For people residing outside NYC:
 - Local health department (LHD) at the phone number found [here](#); if unable to reach the LHD where the person resides, contact the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, at 518-473-4439 during business hours or 866-881- 2809 during evenings, weekends, and holidays
- Refer to the [Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Health Advisory](#) for more detailed clinical guidance regarding triage, infection prevention and control, evaluation, and laboratory testing for people with suspected MVD.
 - Work with the health department to carry out the guidance described in this document.
 - The health department will also help determine whether specimens need to be submitted to the public health laboratory for MVD testing.
- Unless otherwise directed by the health department, do not delay routine clinical laboratory testing, including for suspected infectious diseases (e.g., malaria), and

continue to provide routine care for all people (e.g., bathing, appropriate infection control precautions), regardless of recent travel to Ethiopia, in accordance with [NYS/NYC guidance](#).

- Conduct exercises in managing the encounter and care of a person with viral hemorrhagic fever at least every 12 months. These exercises should review situations that are reasonably likely to occur at the healthcare facility, considering such factors as whether a healthcare facility has been designated as a Special Pathogen Treatment Center.
- Ensure contact information for staff and other facilities and health departments are kept up to date.

For more information:

- [WHO: Ethiopia Confirms First Outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease](#)
- [CDC: Marburg in Ethiopia](#)
- [Health Advisory: Viral Hemorrhagic Fever](#)
- [NYC Health Department: Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers](#)
- [NYS Ebola and Marburg Virus Healthcare Provider Information](#)
- [NYS/NYC Guidance for Laboratory Testing and Management of Persons-Under-Investigation for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers in Non-Designated Hospitals](#)
- [NYS Global Health Update Report](#)
- [CDC: Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers](#)
- [CDC: PPE: Clinically Stable Patients Suspected to have VHF](#)
- [CDC: PPE: Confirmed Patients and Clinically Unstable Patients Suspected to have VHF](#)