



Marion County
OREGON
Health & Human Services

ALERT

**COPY AND DISTRIBUTE TO
PHARMACIES AND
PROVIDERS**

To:
Fax number:

From: Marion County Health and Human Services
Fax number: 503-566-2920

Date: **10/16/2024**

Regarding: Marburg Outbreak in Rwanda

Phone number for follow-up: 503-588-5621

Dear Healthcare Partners,

As of October 8, 2024, the Republic of Rwanda has documented 56 cases and 12 deaths due to Marburg virus in several provinces. Most cases have been healthcare workers, primarily those working within intensive care units. To date, there are no known cases of Marburg in the United States and the risk of infection here is low.

This is a very rare, but severe, viral hemorrhagic fever similar to Ebola that infects humans and non-human primates. Mortality ranges from 20-90% depending on the strain. The time from exposure to onset of illness ranges from 2-21 days. Signs and symptoms include fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, rash (often on torso) with both flat and raised bumps, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. As illness progresses, severity may increase to include liver failure, delirium, shock, hemorrhaging, and multi-organ dysfunction.

The illness is caused by infection with othomarburgviruses, Marburg or Ravn virus, spread from infected Egyptian rousette bats to humans and other non-human primates. Person to person transmission occurs through contact with body fluids and items contaminated with fluids (clothes, bedding, needles, and equipment) from an ill or deceased person with Marburg. It can also be spread via semen from a person who has recovered from Marburg.

There is no vaccine for this virus and treatment is limited to supportive care. Diagnostic tests to consider for those with possible exposure who begin to show signs and symptoms can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/marburg/about/index.html>.

Key Recommendations for Healthcare Partners:

- Avoid nonessential travel to the Republic of Rwanda while the outbreak is active.
- Avoid contact with a case's bodily fluids and items contaminated with those fluids.
- **Consider screening patients for travel to the Republic of Rwanda within the last 21 days.** If they present with symptoms and possible exposure, they should be isolated, and staff should follow strict infection control procedures including using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Aerosol-generating procedures should be avoided.

