

Current major event

Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever outbreak, Iraq

As of epidemiological week 27 of 2022, Iraqi Ministry of Health has reported a total 929 suspected cases of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) with 68 associated deaths at a case-fatality ratio (CFR) of 7.3% from almost all the governorates in the country.

Editorial note

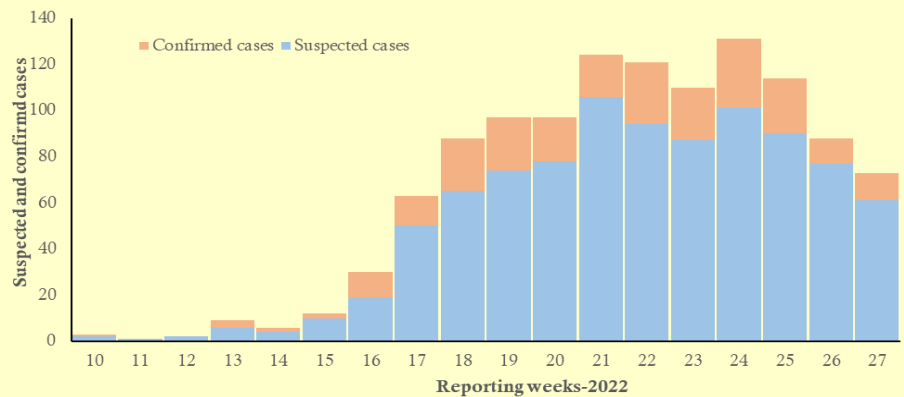
CCHF is a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) of the Bunyaviridae family. It causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks with up to 40% CFR. The virus is primarily transmitted to people from ticks and livestock animals. CCHF is endemic in number of countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

Iraq is one of the Eastern Mediterranean countries where CCHF is endemic. It has been reported since 1979, when the disease was first diagnosed in ten patients. Since then, six cases were reported between 1989 and 2009, 11 cases in 2010, three fatal cases were reported in 2018, and 33 cases were confirmed including 13 deaths (CFR 39%) reported in 2021.

Since the beginning of 2022, the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) of Iraq was testing the suspected CCHF cases, but the first laboratory confirmed cases were reported in the second week of March (*See graph*). Since then the number of suspected CCHF cases steadily increased in the country and the geographical spread of the disease expanded to more governorates. As of epidemiological week 27 of 2022, a total of 929 CCHF cases, including 68 associated deaths (CFR 7.3%) were reported by the Ministry of Health Iraq. Of all reported cases, 242 tested positive for CCHF virus by RT-PCR representing a 26% positivity rate. A total of 40 deaths were reported among the confirmed cases (CFR 16.5%). All governorates reported confirmed cases except Sulymaniah and Salah-Al Din. Thi-qar governorate is affected the most as it recorded 101 confirmed cases, which represents 41% of the total cases (*see table*), followed by Missan governorate with 29 cases and Wasit governorate with 24 cases.

In response to the ongoing CCHF epidemic, health authorities in collaboration with ministry of agriculture and other line ministries conducted multi-disciplinary epidemiological investigation in affected governorates including active disease and entomological surveillance, laboratory confirmation, contact tracing, clinical

Trend of suspected and lab confirmed CCHF cases reported in Iraq, week 10 to week 27-2022



CCHF case by DOHs, Iraq

DOHs	Suspected case	Confirmed case
Thiqar	400	101
Missan	73	29
Wasit	106	24
Babil	53	20
Muthana	24	13
Diwania	25	10
Baghdad-Kerkh	46	9
Kerbala	23	8
Baghdad-Rusafa	69	5
Basra	18	6
Kirkuk	12	3
Erbil	9	3
Ninewa	9	4
Najaf	27	3
Anbar	10	1
Duhok	5	1
Dyalah	7	2
Medical city	1	0
Sulymaniah	5	0
Salah-al-din	7	0

management, risk communication and community engagement and vector control activities. WHO Regional and Country Offices are supporting and collaborating closely with the health authorities to enhance the diagnostic and clinical management capacities, as well as, advanced studies to conduct genomic sequencing for the virus.

WHO recommends implementation of a joint and multisectoral national plan using the One-health approach, where multiple sectors such as, animal health, agriculture, environment, veterinary services, and researchers actively collaborate to enhance long-term efforts to prevent and control CCHF as well as other zoonotic diseases. Additionally, preventive and control strategies in the animal sector should be implemented, including building of national capacities in animal health, improving skills to address health problems at the animal-human-environment interface, integrating surveillance of zoonotic diseases, and supporting joint risk assessments, outbreak investigations and control.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

COVID-19 in 22 EMR countries

Current public health events of concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): 2019-2022

Afghanistan	[180 176 (7701), 4.3%]
Bahrain	[583 984 (1487), 0.3%]
Djibouti	[15 680 (189), 1.2%]
Egypt	[513 944 (24 718), 4.8%]
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	[7 231 387 (141 306) 2%]
Iraq	[2 327 837 (25 219), 1.1%]
Jordan	[1 696 937 (14 066), 0.8%]
Kuwait	[633 316 (2555), 0.4%]
Lebanon	[1 099 065 (10426), 0.9%]
Libya	[502 016 (6430), 1.3%]
Morocco	[1 167 732 (16 076), 1.4%]
occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)	[657 705 (5660), 0.9%]
Oman	[389 605 (4628), 1.2%]
Pakistan	[1 530 285 (30 379), 2%]
Qatar	[368 087 (677), 0.2%]
Saudi Arabia	[766 196 (9143) 1.2%]
Somalia	[26 535 (1361), 5.1%]
Sudan	[62 321 (4941), 7.9%]
Syrian Arab Republic	[55 890 (3150), 5.6%]
Tunisia	[1 042 872 (28 641), 2.7%]
United Arab Emirates	[907 069 (2302), 0.3%]
Yemen	[11 822 (2149), 18.2%]