Rift Valley fever

Information for farmers and animal handlers

Source of infection

Rift Valley fever is transmitted by animals (zoonoses) or by an infected vector. No person-to-person transmission of Rift Valley fever virus has been documented to date.

Transmission and prevention

Blood, meat and organs of infected cattle like buffalo, sheep, goats and camels. Also, bites of infected mosquitoes. Prevention measures include:



Vaccinating cattle



Avoiding direct contact with blood, bodily fluids or tissues of animals



Cooking raw meat and milk thoroughly



Washing hands with soap immediately after direct contact with animals



Protecting yourself from mosquito and insect bites



No symptoms

Symptoms



Mild illness with fever, weakness, back pain and dizziness



8–10% of people develop severe symptoms, including eye disease, excessive bleeding, and swelling of the brain

Actions to take in case of symptoms:



For mild symptoms no specific treatment is required. For severe cases, seek medical advice as general supportive therapy is required.



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Eastern Mediterranean