

Latest Epidemiology: Nipah Virus (NiV) in India



Natural host: Fruit bat (Photo from the WHO)

Recently, an outbreak of Nipah virus (NiV) has been reported in India's southern state of Kerala. A total of 18 confirmed infections including 13 deaths was reported by the Government of Kerala on 31 May 2018.

NiV is an emerging zoonotic pathogen which was first discovered in 1998 during an outbreak of encephalitis and respiratory illness among pig farmers and people with close contact with pigs in Malaysia. Within the past decade, several NiV outbreaks have occurred in the south-west Asia region. (Figure 1)

Facts on Nipah Virus (NiV)

- NiV is an RNA virus of the family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus, and is closely related to Hendra virus.
- **Incubation period:** 4 - 14 days (can be as long as 45 days)
- **Signs & Symptoms:** from asymptomatic infection to acute respiratory syndrome and fatal encephalitis
- **Mode of Transmission:**
 - Bat (pig) to human: food borne / contact
 - Human to human: contact or aerosolization of contaminated body fluids, secretion & excretion
 - Fomite borne: contaminated environments (environmental survival persists at least 10 hours)
- **Treatment:** Intensive supportive care (Ribavirin can reduce mortality in encephalitis case)

Infection Control Strategy

HA will follow an overarching strategy of Early Detection, Early Isolation, Early Notification and Early Diagnostic.

Early Detection:

- Compatible symptoms, travel and contact history

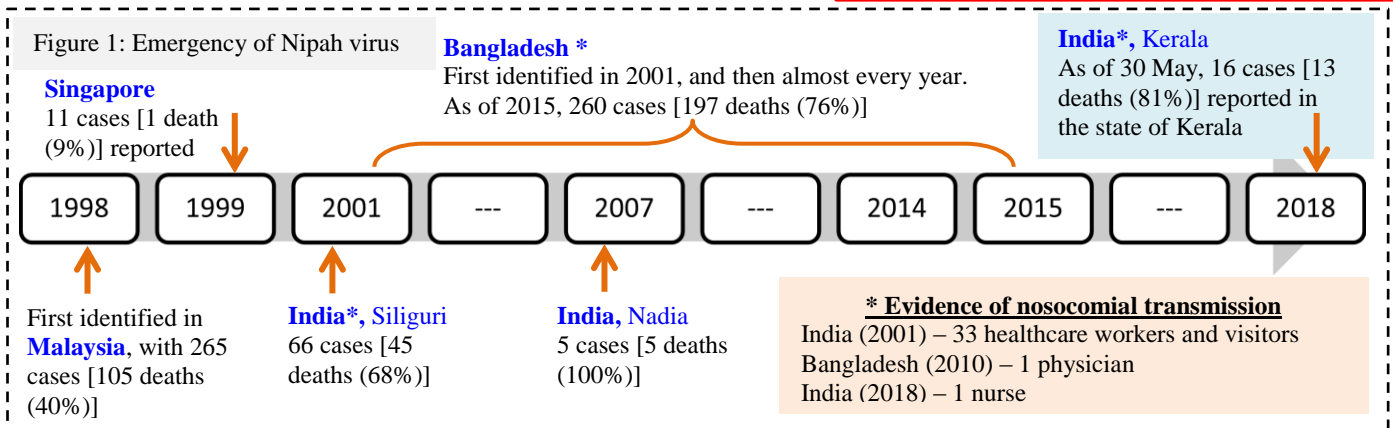
Early Isolation:

- Airborne Infection Isolation
- Standard, Droplet and Contact Precautions

Early Notification: Inform ICT and CICO

Early Diagnostic:

- PCR tests by PHLSB with a turn-around-time of 24 hours



Prevalence Survey (PS) on Catheter associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)

The Prevalence Survey (PS) on Catheter associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) will be carried out by Infection Control Teams (ICTs) in 30 hospitals within 4 to 15 June 2018. The survey is designed to assess the point prevalence of CAUTI and its associated risk factors, in related to the revised recommendation of prevention of CAUTI updated by the Scientific Committee of Infection Control (SCIC) of the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) in March 2017.

The PS will be composed of three parts: (1) CAUTI prevalence, (2) urinary catheter care

policy in place, and (3) urinary catheter care compliance. During the survey period, the colleagues of ICT and the Infectious Disease Control Training Centre (IDCTC) will collect data

on-site from the medical records of target inpatients in the acute-care and convalescent wards except A&E and observation wards, Paediatric, Psychiatric, mental and Infirmary wards.



Latest Epidemiology: Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Outbreak in Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

As of 29 May 2018, there is a total of 53 EVD cases reported to WHO including 36 confirmed cases, 13 probable cases and 4 suspected cases. Among the 53 cases, there are 25 deaths.

All confirmed, probable and suspected cases were reported from Bikoro, Ibokro and Wangata health zones. WHO currently still considers the public health risk to be low at the global level.

A Ring vaccination exercise was launched on 21 May 2018 starting from Mbandaka. WHO has issued a Strategic Response Plan on EVD outbreak in DRC on 29 May 2018 outlining this outbreak's response timeline and the overall WHO response strategy to contain this outbreak.

Source: WHO Ebola situation reports – DRC: <http://www.who.int/ebola/situation-reports/drc-2018/en/> WHO – Strategic Response Plan on EVD outbreak in DRC: <http://www.who.int/emergencies/crises/cod/DRC-ebola-disease-outbreak-response-plan-28May2018-ENfinal.pdf?ua=1&ua=1>

Upcoming Events

17th Asia-Pacific Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infection cum 8th International Infection Control Conference

Organizers: HK Society for Microbiology and Infection & HK Infection Control Nurses' Association

Date: 30 August – 2 September 2018

Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

Please click [here](#) for the preliminary scientific programme.

Conference website:

<https://www.apccmi-iicc2018.hk/>

SAVE LIVES – Clean Your Hands: Hand Hygiene Promotion in NTWC

To enhance the awareness of hospital staff, patients and visitors on the importance of hand hygiene in prevention of healthcare associated infections, Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH) has launched the annual hand hygiene awareness day on 4 May 2018.

The infection control nurses educated the patients and visitors on hand hygiene knowledge and technique through fun games and banner displays.

One of the attractions was the smartphone disinfection station which was a new technology using ultraviolet light to kill germs on smartphones and tablets in 30 seconds. A pop-up message “Time to wash your hands” was shown to remind the players on hand hygiene while waiting for their smartphone disinfection.



Photo: Smartphone disinfection station



Photo (Top left and right): TMH hand hygiene day on 4 May 2018



Photo (Bottom left): SLH/CPH hand hygiene day activities (Bottom right): POH hand hygiene day