



District Health Department No. 2

Northeast Michigan's Community Health Department

MARBURG FEVER

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

WHAT IS MARBURG FEVER?

Marburg fever is a rare, severe, type of hemorrhagic fever that affects both humans and non-human primates.

HOW DO HUMANS GET MARBURG FEVER?

For humans to become infected, they must first come into contact with an animal that is already infected. Once one human becomes infected, it can be passed to other humans through droplets of body fluids, contact with an infected person or object, such as needles that are infected with the disease.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE?

Marburg fever has an incubation period that generally lasts for 5-10 days. The onset of the disease is usually sudden and marked by fever, chills, and body aches. On or about the 5th day of symptoms, a rash, mostly on the trunk of the body occurs. Also, nausea, vomiting, sore throat, stomach pain, and diarrhea may occur. Symptoms become more severe over time, and may include jaundice, swelling of the pancreas, severe weight loss, shock, liver failure, massive bleeding, and multi-organ dysfunction.

HOW IS IT TREATED?

A specific treatment for the fever is unknown. Supportive hospital therapy should be used to help with complications from the disease.

HOW IS THE FEVER PREVENTED?

Due to limited knowledge of the disease, prevention measures against the original host have yet to be established. Prevention measures for secondary transmission are to prevent direct physical contact with an infected person. Protective equipment such as gloves, masks, and gowns should be worn when caring for an infected person.

For more information on Marburg Fever, please visit the Center's for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov or call District Health Department #2 at 1-800-504-2650.