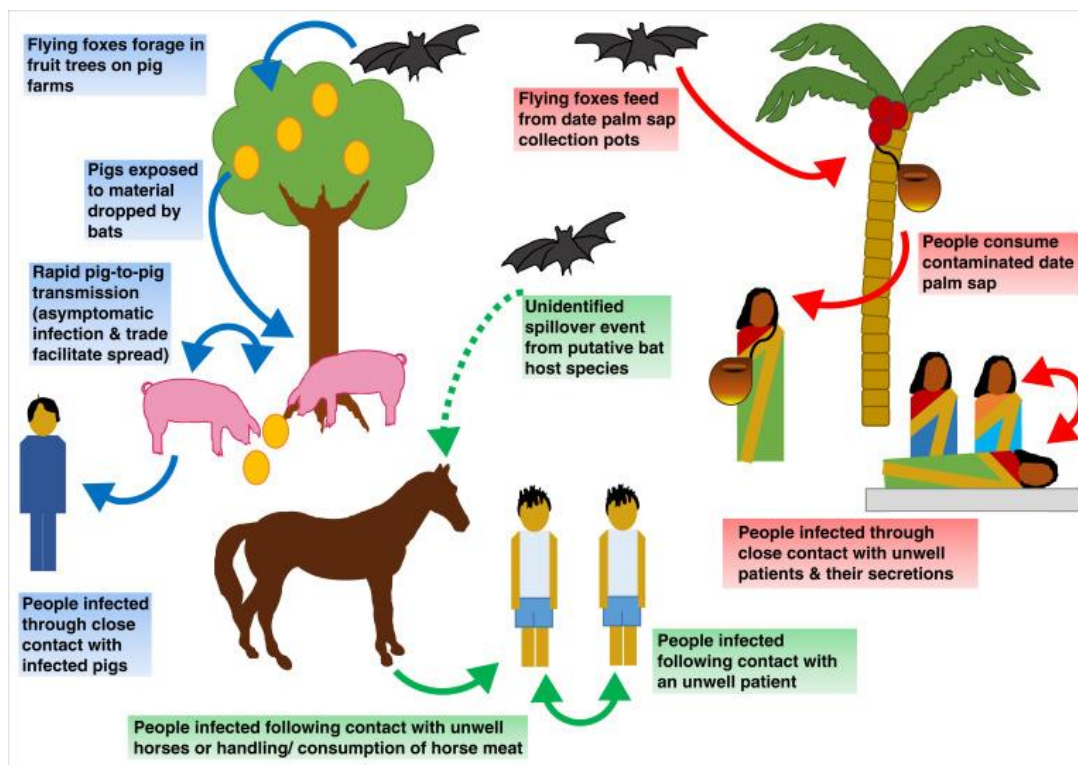


Nipah virus

Key facts

- ✓ Nipah virus is an RNA virus that is part of the Paramyxoviridae family that was first identified in Malaysia and Singapore in 1998 and 1999.
- ✓ Nipah virus infection in humans causes a range of clinical presentations, from asymptomatic infection (subclinical) to acute respiratory infection and fatal encephalitis.
- ✓ Nipah virus can be transmitted to humans from animals (bats, pigs), and can also be transmitted directly from human-to-human.
- ✓ Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of Nipah virus.
- ✓ There is no treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals. The primary treatment for humans is supportive care.
- ✓ Nipah virus is on the WHO list of Blueprint priority diseases



Symptoms:

fever, headache, drowsiness, disorientation, mental confusion and in certain cases, coma.

Incubation period:

4 to 18 days.

Laboratory diagnosis

Procedures for the laboratory diagnosis of NiV include serology, histopathology, PCR and virus isolation. Serum Neutralization Test, ELISA, RT-PCR are used for laboratory confirmation.

Treatment

There are currently no drugs or vaccines specific for NiV infection although this is a priority disease on the WHO R&D Blueprint. Intensive supportive care is recommended to treat severe respiratory and neurologic complications.

Reducing the risk of infection in people

In the absence of a licensed vaccine, the only way to reduce infection in people is by raising awareness of the risk factors and educating people about the measures they can take to reduce exposure to and decrease infection from NiV.

Controlling infection in health-care settings

- ❖ Health-care workers caring for patients with suspected or confirmed NiV infection, or handling specimens from them, should implement standard infection control precautions for all patients at all times
- ❖ As human-to-human transmission in particular nosocomial transmission have been reported, contact precautions should be used in addition to standard precautions.
- ❖ Samples taken from people and animals with suspected NiV infection should be handled by trained staff working in suitably equipped laboratories.

Reference : <http://www.who.int>