The virus is maintained for about a week within the blood of an infected animal.

WILDLIFE: SMALL MAMMALS, BIRDS
Amplifying hosts

WILD AND DOMESTIC RUMINANTS
Amplifying hosts

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus amplifiers

MAIN MEANS OF INFECTION

CONTACT with the blood and other biological fluids with infected animals
An elevated risk during:
- Slaughter
- Contact during animal birth
- Veterinary interventions
- Foetus and/or carcass removal

Crimean-Congo Fever is a nairovirus

Tick BITE

Larva

Eggs

Nymph

Tick

Tick

Tick BITE

HUMAN EPIDEMIC

CONTACT with the blood or secretions of an infected person

CRIMEAN-CONGO HEMORRHAGIC FEVER

VIRAL CYCLE OF

WILDLIFE: SMALL MAMMALS, BIRDS
Amplifying hosts

WILD AND DOMESTIC RUMINANTS
Amplifying hosts

Tick BITE

Tick

Tick

Tick

Tick BITE

Tick BITE

Tick BITE

Tick BITE
**CRIMEAN-CONGO FEVER** is a zoonosis caused by a nairovirus that can cause severe human outbreaks. Tick bites are the principal source of human infection.

**UNDERSTANDING**

**THE CYCLE OF CRIMEAN-CONGO FEVER**

**CONCERNED SPECIES**
- Humans, rabbits, birds, rodents, cattle, sheep, goats and ostriches.

**VECTOR**
- Ticks, especially the genus *Hyalomma*, and the tick-animal-tick cycle can propagate the virus.

**MODES OF TRANSMISSION**
- Animal to animal transmission occurs through:
  - Bites from infected ticks.
  - Direct animal-animal contact with bodily fluids, particularly contaminated blood.
- Human transmission occurs through:
  - Bites from infected ticks.
  - Direct contact with the blood or organs of infected animals.
- Inter-human transmission occurs through direct contact with the blood and other bodily fluids, secretions and organs of an infected person.

**PEOPLE AT RISK**
- People involved in raising animals, including agricultural workers, slaughterhouse staff, and veterinarians are often among the most at risk.

**CLINICAL SIGNS**

**WARNING SIGNS in animals**
- Infection is asymptomatic in the majority of animals.

After a tick bite, humans should go to the nearest health center at the first sign of illness.

**PRINCIPAL SYMPTOMS in humans**
- Incubation period:
  - After a tick bite: 1 to 3 days (max. 9 days).
  - After contact with infected tissues: 5 to 6 days (max. 13 days).
- 1st symptomatic phase: fever, muscle aches, dizziness, stiffness in the neck, back pain, headache, eye tenderness and photophobia. In some cases, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, sore throat, bradycardia, sudden mood swings and confusion.
- 2nd symptomatic phase (after 2-4 days): drowsiness, depression, lassitude, abdominal pain located in the upper right quadrant, tachycardia, lymphadenopathy, petechial rash and bruising (mouth, throat, on the skin).
- 3rd symptomatic phase (severe forms of the disease, after 5 days): Hepatic, renal and pulmonary insufficiency which can lead to death in about two weeks.
- Duration of symptoms: Up to 12 days.

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHEN YOU SUSPECT A CASE IN LIVESTOCK?**

1. **ADHERE TO GOOD PRACTICES** for personal protection (gloves, protective clothing), especially when visiting slaughterhouses and delivering veterinary services.
2. **COLLECT SAMPLES**, if possible, and send them to the national veterinary laboratory or a reference laboratory.
3. **ENSURE GOOD COORDINATION** between Wildlife Services, Veterinary Services and Public Health Services.
4. **NOTIFY THE OIE BY E-MAIL OR FAX OR THROUGH WAHIS** of every confirmed case of an OIE-listed disease (like Crimean-Congo Fever) as per Article 1.1.3 of the OIE Terrestrial Code.

**WHAT MESSAGES SHOULD YOUR SHARE WITH AT-RISK COMMUNITIES?**

1. **APPLY ACARICIDES**, if available, **TO LIVESTOCK** to reduce the tick population.
2. **EXAMINE YOURSELF, CHILDREN AND LIVESTOCK FOR TICKS** after each visit to the forest. Remove ticks with sharp tweezers.
3. **CUT ALL TALL VEGETATION** near homes.
4. **PROTECT YOUR HANDS AND ANY EXPOSED SKIN** when handling sick or dead livestock.

**CRIMEAN-CONGO FEVER** is a zoonosis caused by a nairovirus that can cause severe human outbreaks. Tick bites are the principal source of human infection.