

Public health recommendations for asymptomatic contacts of Nipah virus (NiV) infection in UK settings

This document should be used for exposures to NiV infection that have occurred in the UK.

In this guidance, 'case' refers to a confirmed, symptomatic case of NiV infection unless otherwise specified. 'Body fluids' can include blood, vomit, faeces, urine, saliva and semen.

Any individual who has not had contact with the case within the last 21 days is not deemed to be a contact.

The UKHSA Imported Fever Service or UKHSA Emerging Infections and Zoonoses team can provide assistance with contact categorisation on request.

Category	Example scenarios	Actions
<p>Category 3 (High risk of exposure)</p> <p>Description: Unprotected high risk close (within 2 metres), direct or protracted contact with a case whilst symptomatic or infectious material</p>	<p>Household or overnight contact of a case while they were symptomatic</p> <p>Significant exposure to material from a case such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needlestick injuries • confirmed history of splashes on mucous membranes or broken skin • direct contact with a case or their body fluids without appropriate PPE, or where there has been a breach, including inhalation of droplets or dust in contaminated rooms • direct face to face contact without appropriate PPE or where there has been a breach <p>Direct exposure of skin or mucous membranes to an environment contaminated with blood or body fluids of a case without appropriate PPE, including on clothing or bedding (for example in a room after the case has left but before decontamination) or during transportation without appropriate PPE</p> <p>Unprotected handling of clinical or laboratory specimens from a case, for example handling laboratory specimens at any biosecurity level (BSL) where there have been breaches of PPE</p> <p>Person in room during aerosol generating procedure without appropriate PPE</p> <p>Passengers on a plane seated in the same row and two rows in front and behind the case. Cabin crew serving in the cabin where the case was seated.</p>	<p>Inform about the risk (high risk exposure)</p> <p>Provide Category 3 contact information sheet and contact number</p> <p>For 21 days following last exposure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self-isolate unless an alternative has been agreed with UKHSA • self-monitor and record temperature and symptoms twice daily (temperature to be taken before taking any anti-fever medication such as aspirin, paracetamol or ibuprofen) and report to UKHSA designated contact. If there is inability to take temperature, alternative arrangements for consultation with a clinician will be made with the relevant health services • if feeling ill in between reporting to the designated contact, take temperature, and if 37.5°C or higher, or have other symptoms suggestive of NiV (as outlined in the contact information sheet) phone designated contact immediately • if any delay in making contact with the UKHSA designated contact phone NHS 111, and state that they have been exposed to NiV. If seriously ill, dial 999, again reporting contact with NiV <p>Additionally, for 21 days following the last exposure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid contact with other household members • do not share towels, bed linen, toothbrushes, razors or eating and drinking utensils such as cutlery or cups • non-essential medical or dental treatment should be postponed. For essential treatment, the healthcare provider must be informed prior to the procedure • avoid sexual contact <p>Contact should not travel internationally or by air for 21 days after last exposure</p>
<p>Category 2 (Low risk)</p> <p>Description: Protected direct or close (within 2 metres) contact with a case or infectious material outside of a controlled environment</p>	<p>Direct or close (within 2 metres) contact with a case or their body fluids outside of a controlled environment (such as a designated HCID unit), but wore appropriate PPE correctly with no known breaches</p> <p>Exposure to an environment contaminated with blood or body fluids of a case while wearing appropriate PPE correctly with no known breaches (for example in a room after the case has left but before decontamination)</p> <p>Laboratory staff in non-containment level 4 facilities handling specimens from a case who have had no breach of laboratory practice/PPE</p> <p>Subsequent patients in consulting room after a case was seen and prior to room cleaning.</p> <p>Passengers on a plane seated more than two rows in front or behind an infectious case.</p>	<p>Inform contact about the risk (low risk exposure)</p> <p>Provide Category 2 contact information sheet and contact number</p> <p>Passive monitoring: For 21 days following last exposure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • self-monitor temperature twice daily (temperature to be taken before taking any anti-fever medication such as aspirin, paracetamol or ibuprofen). If temperature is 37.5°C or higher, or if there are other symptoms suggestive of NiV (as outlined in contact information sheet), report to designated contact. If seriously ill, dial 999, reporting possible contact with NiV <p>If the contact does not have any symptoms, then they can carry out normal activities during the 21 days after the last exposure, except for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-essential medical or dental treatment should be postponed. For essential treatment, the healthcare provider must be informed of the exposure history prior to the procedure • do not share towels, bed linen, toothbrushes or razors • use barrier contraception or avoid unprotected sexual contact <p>There are no restrictions on work, travel or social activities as long as the contact has no symptoms. However, healthcare workers should inform their line manager that they have been identified as a contact of NiV, but are able to work with no restrictions as long as they are asymptomatic.</p>
<p>Category 1 (Very low risk)</p>	<p>Household contact of a case while the case was asymptomatic in the 21 days before symptoms developed</p>	<p>Provide reassurance and Category 1 contact information sheet</p> <p>Contact may continue normal activities including travel with no restrictions</p> <p>Key clinical advice for contact: if feeling ill (within 21 days of last exposure), take temperature (before taking any anti-fever medication such as aspirin, paracetamol, ibuprofen). If</p>

<p>Description: Protected contact with a case or infectious material within a controlled environment OR Unprotected household contact with a case in the 21 days prior to symptom onset</p>	<p>Clinical staff caring for a case in a controlled environment (like a designated HCID Unit) wearing appropriate PPE with no known breaches UKHSA laboratory staff in containment level 4 diagnostic laboratory handling specimens from a case who have had no breach of laboratory practice/PPE</p>	<p>temperature is 37.5°C or higher, or if there are other symptoms suggestive of NiV (as outlined in contact information sheet), call NHS 111 or, if very unwell, 999, and state recent contact with NiV.</p>
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