



Advisory from the Philippine Inter-agency Committee on Zoonoses (PhilCZ) on Henipavirus

September 29, 2023

The Philippine Inter-agency Committee on Zoonoses (PhilCZ), composed of the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), clarifies that, as of press time, **no case positive for Nipah virus has been detected in the country**. Though Henipavirus infection was detected in the Philippines in 2014, no new case or outbreak of such infection has been detected since then. While the PhilCZ encourages the public to be vigilant and practice behaviors to prevent transmission of disease, there is no need for suspension of classes or work at this time.

Henipaviruses, commonly found in Pteropid fruit bats (flying foxes), are a family of viruses that include Nipah and Hendra viruses. They cause illness in pigs, horses, dogs, and people through direct contact with blood, urine, feces, saliva, respiratory droplets or consumption of contaminated food products. Infection may present as flu-like symptoms but are associated with complications that may include fatal encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and respiratory illness.



REMINDERS

The PhilCZ enjoins the public to practice the following to prevent transmission of the virus:



Avoid direct contact or handling of bats and keep distance from their roosting/dwelling areas



Avoid eating or drinking products that could be contaminated by bats such as fruits with bite marks, or fruits that have fallen



Wash and cook food thoroughly; wash fruits adequately before eating;



Wear personal protective equipment (PPEs) such as face masks, goggles, and boots especially when handling animals or when caring for individuals presenting symptoms to prevent contact with blood or body fluids of potentially infected persons



Access verified information from the DOH, DA or DENR for proper guidance.

The PhilCZ also recommends livestock owners to report unusual deaths or any respiratory and neurologic symptoms (difficulty or abnormal breathing, nasal discharge, severe cough, trembling, leg weakness, head pressing, etc.) among animals to local veterinary authorities, and report any symptoms among farm workers or handlers to local health offices. Proper disposal of dead animals must be observed.

For reports or inquiries on any animal disease incidence, please call the DA Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) hotline at 0995-132-9339 or 0920-854-3119 or email at ahwd@bai.gov.ph. For patient concerns, please consult your nearest primary care provider or the DOH Health Emergency Management Bureau (National Patient Navigation and Referral Center - NPNRC) hotline at 1555 (then select option 2).



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Ipinapaalam ng Philippine Inter-agency Committee on Zoonoses (PhilCZ), na binubuo ng Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DA), at Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), na **walang kaso na positibo para sa Nipah virus ang naitala sa bansa**. Bagaman nagkaroon ng kasong Henipavirus sa bansa noong 2014, walang bagong kasong outbreak nito mula noon. Hinihikayat ang publiko na maging handa at gawin ang mga payo para maiwasan ang pagkalat ng sakit. Sa ngayon, hindi inirerekомenda ang pagsuspinde ng klase o pagpasok sa trabaho.

Ang Henipavirus, na karaniwang matatagpuan sa paniki o Pteropid fruit bats (flying foxes), ay isang pamilya ng mga virus na kinabibilangan ng Nipah at Hendra virus. Nagdudulot ito ng sakit sa mga baboy, kabayo, aso, at tao sa pamamagitan ng direktang kontak sa dugo, ihi, dumi, laway, respiratory droplet o kontaminadong pagkain o prutas. Karaniwang sintomas nito ang trangkaso at maaaring magdulot ng komplikasyong nakamamatay tulad ng encephalitis (pamamaga sa utak) at sakit sa baga.



REMINDERS

Hinihikayat ng PhilCZ ang publiko na gawin ang sumusunod para maprotektahan mula sa virus:



Iwasan ang mga pamugaran ng mga paniki at karaniwang lugar kung saan sila kumakain



Iwasan ang pagkain o pag-inom ng mga prutas na maaaring nakagatan o nasipsipan ng mga paniki, o prutas na nahulog mula sa puno



Hugasan at lutuing mabuti ang pagkain; hugasan nang husto ang mga prutas bago kainin



Magsuot ng personal protective equipment (PPEs) tulad ng mga face mask, goggles, at bota lalo na sa mga nangangalaga ng hayop o kapag nag-aalaga ng mga taong may sintomas para maiwasan ang pagkahawa mula sa dugo o likido sa katawan (ihi, suka, o dumi) ng mga taong posibleng may sakit



Kumuha ng tamang impormasyon mula sa DOH, DA, o DENR

Inirerekомenda rin ng PhilCZ sa mga nag-aalaga ng hayop na mag-ulat ng 'di karaniwang pagkamatay ng hayop o anumang sintomas sa baga o utak ng hayop (hirap sa paghinga, sipon, ubo, panginginig, panghihina ng binti, pag-untog ng ulo sa dingding o ibang bagay, atbp) sa lokal na beterinaryo, at mag-ulat ng anumang sintomas sa mga taong nag-aalaga ng hayop sa pinakamalapit na health office. Dapat sundin ang wastong pagtapon ng mga patay na hayop.

Para sa mga ulat o tanong sa sakit sa hayop, tumawag sa DA Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) hotline sa 0995-132-9339 o 0920-854-3119 o mag-email sa ahwd@bai.gov.ph. Para sa mga taong may sintomas, komunsulta sa pinakamalapit na health office o sa DOH Health Emergency Management Bureau (National Patient Navigation and Referral Center - NPNRC) hotline sa 1555 (pagkatapos ay piliin ang option 2).



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