



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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State Health Commissioner

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Declaration of Marburg Virus Disease as a Communicable Disease of Public Health Threat for Virginia

Whereas, by October 14, 2024, Marburg Virus Disease had sickened 62 individuals in Rwanda, 15 (24.1 %) of whom have died; and

Whereas, Marburg Virus Disease is readily transmissible with documented spread among healthcare workers in Rwanda; and

Whereas, Marburg Virus Disease has a demonstrated significant case fatality rate; and

Whereas, there are currently no approved vaccines or antiviral treatments for Marburg Virus Disease and treatment is limited to supportive care; and


Whereas, travelers from Rwanda will be routed through three US airports, including Washington Dulles airport with some travelers having Virginia as a final destination; and

Whereas, the US Government has issued recommendations for public health management of US-based healthcare personnel returning from Rwanda and interim recommendations for post-arrival public health management of travelers from Rwanda which include a recommendation to quarantine persons with high-risk exposures; and

Whereas, these features of virulence, transmissibility, lack of treatment, and potential magnitude of the effect on the health and welfare of the public meet the criteria for Exceptional Circumstances as defined in 12VAC5-90-10; and

Whereas, isolation and quarantine can be necessary effective public health measures to control the spread of Marburg Virus Disease;

I hereby declare that Marburg Virus Disease is considered a Communicable Disease of Public Health Threat. Therefore, the provisions of §32.1-48.05 et seq. of the Code of Virginia may be invoked for public health investigations of persons known or suspected of being exposed to Marburg virus or known or suspected of being infected with Marburg virus, such that I may issue orders of isolation and/or quarantine as necessary and appropriate to control this disease in Virginia.


Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner

10.16.2024
Date