

## Herpes B Virus, Possible Exposure (B Virus)

Merlin reporting code = 07103  
Case report form (CRF): N/A  
**MERLIN EXTENDED DATA REQUIRED**

### Clinical description

Any bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure to bodily fluids from a non-human primate (NHP) capable of transmitting herpes B virus (HBV), primarily macaque monkeys.

### Laboratory criteria for case classification

N/A

### Case classification

#### Confirmed:

Any person exposed to bodily fluids or tissue from an NHP capable of transmitting HBV via a bite, scratch, mucous membrane, or environmental exposure.

### Comments

All monkey bites, including those where rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is not recommended, should be reported as herpes B virus, possible exposure (Merlin reporting code=07103).

Exposures where rabies PEP is also recommended should be reported as herpes B virus, possible exposure (Merlin reporting code=07103) **and** rabies, possible exposure (Merlin reporting code=07101).

### Resources

- National B Virus Lab: <http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwvir/index.html> (titer testing is fee-based and can be ordered directly by health care providers)
- Guidelines for Prevention of and Therapy for Exposure to B Virus (Cercopithecine Herpesvirus 1): <http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/35/10/1191.full>

### Notes

Macaque monkeys are the primary reservoir for HBV, however other species of NHP that are in direct contact with macaque monkeys can be infected. Monkey bites that involve NHP species other than macaques do not require HBV prophylaxis and serologic follow-up unless the NHP has had previous direct exposure to macaques. **HBV can migrate to the central nervous system within hours, therefore prompt wound cleansing followed by rapid initiation of anti-viral prophylaxis is recommended immediately following an exposure.** The value of initiating prophylaxis more than five days after an exposure is unknown. Similar to herpes simplex virus in humans, infected animals are infected for life, but virus shedding only occurs intermittently and is most likely to occur when the animal is stressed. There is no conclusive test that can definitively identify HBV negative animals or when infected animals are actively shedding virus.

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