

PREVENTIVE TRAVEL NOTICE AND INFORMATION FOR TRAVELERS TO BOLIVIA DUE TO AN OUTBREAK OF ARENAVIRUS HEMORRHAGIC FEVER

July | 26 | 2019

[UIES-TRAVEL-NOTICE-ARENAVIRUS-BOLIVIA-2019] →

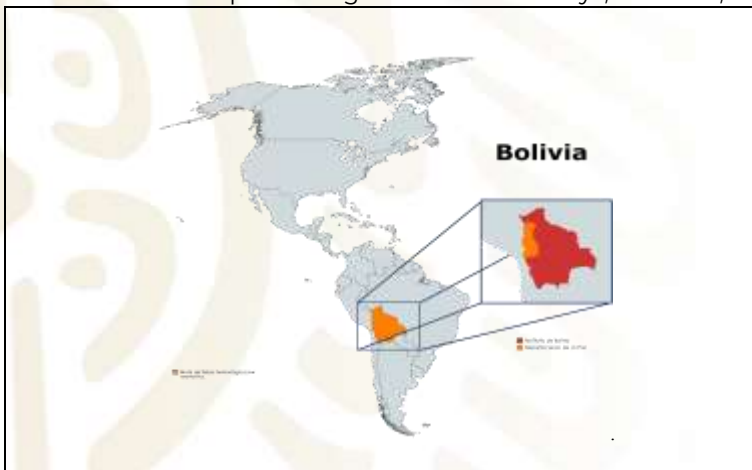
Key points:

- An **outbreak of hemorrhagic fever** has been reported in **Bolivia**; caused by an **arenavirus**, in which at least three people have died.
- The reservoir is a rodent: *Calomys callosus* (Laucha campestre).
- Bolivian Hemorrhagic Fever (FHB) is a zoonotic, viral disease, also known as black typhus. It is produced by the Machupo virus (Member of the Arenaviridae Family, genus arenavirus of the New World, Tacaribe complex), which was isolated in 1959.
- The Bolivian Ministry of Health has reported a total of five cases, including three deaths.
- The first case occurred in the province of Caranavi; The health care provider who treated the case became ill and was transferred to La Paz. The additional cases reported are related to the first case, whether they are family members or health care providers. Therefore, the transmission from person to person should not be ruled out.
- **Arenavirus hemorrhagic fever, can be fatal, is transmitted by direct contact with rodents or inhalation of their feces.** The virus can also be transmitted from **person to person to direct or indirect contact with blood or body fluids of infected people.**
- The incubation period in general is 6 to 14 days, however, it can vary between 5 to 21 days.

Risk level

**Level 1:
Low risk**

**Practice
strict
hygiene
precautions**



Symptoms:

- Gradually start with general malaise.
- Headache
- Moderate but constant fever.

It can also be accompanied by

- Muscle and joint pain
- Red eyes
- Vomiting
- Small bruises or red dots on the skin
- Small bleeding or nose bleeding

Affected countries:

- **Bolivia**

Before travel:

- **There is no commercial vaccine** that prevents infection with the arenavirus virus or specific treatment that eliminates the infection.
- **Currently, there is no travel restriction to Bolivia**, however, it is necessary to apply preventive measures if you are going to visit any of the areas affected by the outbreak of hemorrhagic fever by arenavirus, take precautions.

During your trip:

You must perform strict hygiene measures:

- **Handwashing constantly**, especially if you suspect having or having had contact with **animals** (rodents) or with **people** who may be **infected** or **sick**.
- **Avoid contact with sick people.**
- **Avoid contact with rodents and their secretions: urine, feces, blood, saliva and with food that rodents have touched.**
- Health workers, who travel to Bolivia, to provide medical care to local populations may be at risk and should wear full personal protective equipment when dealing with suspected cases of **arenavirus hemorrhagic fever**.

Additional Information:

- Health Secretariat <https://www.gob.mx/salud>
- Pan American Health Organization: https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=49430&lang=es
https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8304:2013-fiebre-hemorragica-boliviana&Itemid=39844&lang=es

For any questions you can contact **the EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND HEALTH INTELLIGENCE UNIT** at **5337-1845** or **01-800-00-44-800**, where you will be attended by highly trained personnel.