

# Microbe Minutiae

- From the Department of Microbiology -

## Nipah Virus (NiV)

### Background:

- A zoonotic virus, meaning it can spread between animals and people.
- Natural hosts are fruit bats.

### Causes:

- Contact with infected animals or their body fluids
- Contaminated food products
- Close contact with a person infected by NiV or with their body fluids

### Signs & Symptoms:

- Fever
- Headache
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Vomiting
- Muscle pain

#### In severe cases:

- Disorientation, drowsiness & confusion
- Seizures
- Brain swelling (encephalitis)
- Death may occur

### Treatment:

Supportive care

- Rest
- Hydration
- Treatment of symptoms as they occur



### Prevention:

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water.
- Avoid contact with sick animals.
- Avoid eating or drinking products that could be contaminated by bats.
- Avoid contact with the body fluids of an NiV infected person.

