

Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)

ORGANISM (ORGA)

BCH-ORGA-SCBD-115252-3

LAST UPDATED: 29 JUN 2020

Organism information

Scientific name

Human alphaherpesvirus 1

Taxonomic Classification

Kingdom Heunggongvirae
Phylum Peploviricota
Class Herviviricetes
Order Herpesvirales
Family Herpesviridae
Genus Simplexvirus
Species Human alphaherpesvirus 1

Alternate scientific name(s) (synonym(s))

Human herpes simplex virus 1
Human herpesvirus 1

Common name(s)

HHV-1

EN

HSV-1

EN

Herpes simplex virus 1

EN

Additional classification

Group (virus)

I (double-stranded DNA)

Type of organism

Viruses

Characteristics related to biosafety

Centre(s) of genetic diversity

East Africa (*see attached publication*)

EN

Habitat range

More than 67% of the population is infected.

EN

Geographical distribution

Worldwide

EN

Known pathogenicity and/or allergenicity

Herpesvirus simplex 1 infects *Homo sapiens* (Humans). Transmission is predominantly oral-to-oral contact and causes ulcers around the mouth, commonly referred to as "cold sores". Although less common, the virus can also cause genital infections (via oral-genital contact), keratitis (ocular infection) and encephalitis (brain infection). The virus remains latent in the trigeminal ganglia (sensory nerve ganglia).

EN

Additional Information

Herpes viruses are enveloped viruses, meaning they contain a lipid envelop surrounding a protein core.

EN

Individuals infected with HSV-1 are still at risk for acquiring HSV-2 (genital herpes).

Other relevant website addresses and/or attached documents

? [WHO factsheet: Herpes simplex virus](#) (*English*)

? [Using HSV-1 Genome Phylogenetics to Track Past Human Migrations.pdf](#) (*English*)

? [Mixing It Up - New Insights Into Interspecies Recombination Between Herpes Simplex Virus Type 1 and 2.pdf](#) (*English*)

[BCH-ORGA-SCBD-115252-3](#)

Further Information

Questions about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House may be directed to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413 rue Saint-Jacques, suite 800
Montreal, Québec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Fax: +1 514 288-6588

Email: secretariat@cbd.int