 

[\*\*\*Hospital letter head\*\*\*] Local lead investigator: [\*\*\*local\_lead\*\*\*]

**ISARIC/WHO Clinical Characterisation Protocol for Severe Emerging Infections**

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 12 YEARS OLD - VHF**

Parents/guardians/carers are asked to go through this information with their child.

Please consider using the cartoon sheet to help explain the study to young children.

**Please ask study staff if you or your child has any questions.**

We want to find out why viral haemorrhagic fever is making you unwell so that we can help other children like you.

**What does this mean for me?**

To help us finding out more about what is making you and other children unwell we will collect data from your medical records when you are in Hospital.

In addition, we may take some extra samples of blood and other samples while you are in hospital.

These are extra to what would normally be collected for your care.

The amount of blood will depend on how big you are. We will weight you so that we only take a safe amount. We will explain how much blood will be taken at each visit. We will also keep any leftover samples from your normal care. We will make sure the amount of blood is as small as possible.

We will take the blood every other day for two weeks, and then every week for as long as you are unwell. When you are better will ask you to come back to the hospital or clinic in 3 and 6 months time to give us one more blood sample.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you and your parents to decide if you should take part in helping us.

If you don’t want to take part, then you don’t have to.

Either way, your decision will not affect your care and treatments in any way.

**What will happen to the information and samples?**

All information about you will be kept private and confidential. Only the people responsible for your care and for this study will know that you were involved in this study.

If you agree for us to take samples, we will use the samples to see how your body fights the infection and how well medicines given to you work to make you better. All information about you will be kept private.

**Are there any benefits to taking part in this study?**

No. By helping us find out more about why you are ill, we will be able to help look after children better in the future. In addition to the data collected, if samples are taken, being a part of this study means that more samples will be taken than are needed for normal care.