# PRESS RELEASE (Sept. 21)

# National Infectious Disease Risk Alert Level Lowered from YELLOW to BLUE

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$\diamondsuit$ National Infectious Disease Risk Alert Level Lowered from YELLOW to BLUE,	IMS will	continue
to be activated throughout the Chuseok holiday		

- All 21 close contacts tested negative and will be released from quarantine on Sept. 22, 00:00
- Travelers to the Middle East during the holiday period are advised to follow health precautions and asked to cooperate with quarantine measures upon entry to ROK
- □ The Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) and the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) held a risk assessment meeting on the morning of Sept. 21 and decided to lower the national infectious disease risk alert level from YELLOW to BLUE starting from midnight (Sept. 22, 00:00).
  - \* Alert level criteria:

BLUE - MERS case(s) abroad with no immediate threat of importation to ROK

YELLOW - domestic importation of MERS from abroad

ORANGE - confined spread of MERS within the country

RED - spread of MERS in communities across the country

- The results of the confirmation tests conducted on Sept. 20 on the 21 quarantined close contacts returned negative.
  - \* Close contacts will be released from quarantine at the end of the 14-day monitoring period (Sept. 22, 00:00)
  - \*\* Casual contacts (396 as of Sept. 21, 12:00) will no longer undergo active monitoring starting from Sept. 22, 00:00
- □ The national infectious disease risk alert level was lowered after taking into consideration that:
  - a) there are no domestic cases of MERS following the negative test results on Sept. 17 of the previously confirmed patient

- b) there have been no additional confirmed cases among close contacts over the 14-day monitoring period
- All close contacts were tested twice for MERS infection and both tests came back negative. As such, the results of the risk assessment meeting determined that the risk of any additional domestic cases due to the imported confirmed case is very low.
- In the instance that there are no additional cases throughout the remainder of the monitoring period, all quarantined close contacts will be released from quarantine on Sept. 22, 00:00, and the national infectious disease risk alert level will be lowered to BLUE.
- Even after the risk level has been lowered to BLUE, operations will continue to be conducted addressing the MERS situation regarding this imported case until the end of the designated period\*. The MERS IMS will continue to be activated within the 24-hour Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to strengthen surveillance and response to any potential MERS cases.
  - \* Until Oct. 16, 28 days (twice as long as the MERS incubation period) following the confirmed case's negative test results
- □ KCDC expresses its utmost gratitude to the 21 quarantined close contacts, casual contacts, and the general public for cooperating with preventive measures, as well as healthcare professionals for all of their hard work.
  - KCDC will continue to work closely with relevant ministries, agencies, and local governments to prevent the additional spread of MERS due to this imported case.
  - KCDC confirmed that it will review and assess any gaps in its MERS response measures and improve upon them, as necessary.
  - Healthcare providers are advised to check the travel history of incoming patients with respiratory symptoms to see if they have recently traveled to the

Middle East. The travel history of Korean nationals can be checked through the Drug Usage Review (DUR) system, while that of foreign nationals can be checked through direct questioning. Healthcare providers should report any patients suspected of MERS-CoV infection to local public health centers or call the KCDC Call Center at 1339.

- When visiting the Middle East, individuals are advised to maintain proper personal hygiene, such as washing hands frequently, and to avoid visits to local farms, contact with camels, consumption of raw camel meat or camel milk, and unnecessary visits to local medical facilities.
  - Individuals are asked to cooperate with quarantine procedures, such as honestly completing health status questionnaires at the time of entry.

Appendix 1

# Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Overview

	Details
Cases and Outbreaks	<ul> <li>MERS cases have been identified in the Middle East around the Arabian Peninsula, with approximately 2,229 confirmed cases around the world from 2012 to June 30, 2018 (according to WHO)</li> <li>Since January 2018, there have been 116 confirmed MERS cases (as of September 8, 2018) in the Middle East (114 in Saudi Arabia*, 1 in UAE, 1 in Oman)</li> <li>* One case was infected in Saudi Arabia and imported the virus to the UK</li> </ul>
Pathogen	∘Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus ; MERS-CoV
Mode of Transmission	<sup>a</sup> Although the mode of transmission is uncertain, animal-to-human transmission has been observed through contact with infected camels and consumption of camel meat and milk, and limited direct and indirect human-to-human transmission has been observed through droplet infection following close contact with infected individuals
Incubation Period	∘Approximately 2-14 days
Symptoms and Clinical Course	<ul> <li>MERS patients usually experience fever, cough, sputum, shortness of breath, and other respiratory symptoms. They may also suffer from diarrhea, vomiting, and other gastrointestinal symptoms.</li> <li>Many patients have low lymphocyte or platelet counts</li> <li>Case Fatality Rate: The prognosis for those with pre-existing conditions or weakened immune systems is rather poor, with a fatality rate of approximately 30%</li> </ul>
Diagnosis	Routing confirmation is conducted by RT-PCR testing of unique sequences of viral RNA; confirmation by nucleic sequencing can be conducted when necessary
Treatment	∘There is no cure for MERS, but individuals can be treated for their symptoms
Case Management	Cases: Isolation of suspected or confirmed cases Close Contacts: Passive surveillance of contacts of suspected cases, isolation and active surveillance of contacts of confirmed cases
Prevention	<ul> <li>Hand washing, cough etiquette, and maintaining proper personal hygiene</li> <li>For travelers to the Middle East</li> <li>Avoid contact with camels and crowded areas; wear a mask if you experience respiratory symptoms; avoid contact with those who have respiratory symptoms</li> </ul>

Appendix 2

## **MERS Educational Content (English & Arabic)**





## **MERS Fact Sheet**

#### What is MERS?



#### **▲ Symptoms**







Shortness

of breath



Sore throat



▲ Incubation Period

MERS is an acute respiratory disease caused by a new Coronavirus(MERS-CoV)

Approximately 2 to 14 days

#### Who are possible suspected MERS cases?

- Those experiencing fever and respiratory symptoms
   (cough, shortness of breath, etc.) and:
- Have traveled to the Middle East\* within 14 days from the onset of symptoms
   Have had close contact with a symptomatic suspected MERS case
  - Those experiencing fever and respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.) and also had close contact with a symptomatic confirmed MERS case

\* The Arabian Peninsula and nearby countries (regions): Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, Yemen

#### Infection Route

#### General Response Protocol

(In Korea) contact with confirmed MERS case
(Outside Korea) contact with infected camels,
consumption of camel meat or camel milk,
or contact with confirmed MERS case

If you experience any MERS-like symptoms (fever, cough, etc.) please call the KCDC Call Center at 1339

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# **Preventing MERS Infection**

#### In Korea

#### **How to Prevent**



Check MERS related information on the KCDC website at (cdc.go.kr)



Should you experience symptoms and suspect MERS infection, report to the KCDC 1339 Call Center or your local public health center



Maintain proper personal hygiene (frequent hand washing and covering your mouth and nose with your sleeves when coughing)

#### If MERS Infection is Suspected



If you experience fever and respiratory symptoms within 14 days of traveling to the Middle East, report to the KCDC 1339 Call Center or your local public health center



If you do not experience any symptoms, feel free to carry out your daily activities as usual

## **Outside Korea (the Middle East)**

#### Prevention guidelines when traveling to the Middle East



When traveling to the Middle East, avoid visiting local farms, direct contact with camels, and consumption of raw camel meat or milk



Avoid visiting crowded areas and local healthcare facilities unless absolutely necessary (if you must visit, wear a mask)



Avoid direct contact with anyone showing MERS-like symptoms, such as cough or fever



Maintain proper personal hygiene (frequent hand washing, covering your mouth and nose with your sleeves when coughing, etc.)



When entering Korea after traveling to the Middle East, submit the provided health questionnaire. If you experience symptoms within 14 days after returning home, call the KCDC Call Center at 1339 or your local public health center

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إذا كان لديكم حمى وأعراض تنفسية، نرجو منكم الاتصال برقم 1339 الخاص بمركز الاتصالات التابع لهيئة السيطرة الكورية على الأمراض والوقاية منها، قبل أن تزوروا أي مستشفى أو عيادة طبية، حتى يتم منع انتشار المزيد من العدوى.

발열과 호흡기 증상이 있다면 감염 전파 방지를 위해 의료기관 방문 전에 질병관리본부 콜센터 **국 반없이 1339**로 전화하세요



#### كل ما تحتاج لمعرفته حول فيروس ميرس 메르스 바로 암기

구토설사



- الاتصال بجمل ظاه الاتصال بجمل الاتصال بحمل
- 생 나타유 설취 الأبل الخام 전기 تناول حليب الإبل الخام
- الاتصال المباشر مع مريض مصاب بميرس أو القرب منه 메르스 환자와 직접 또는 긴밀한 접촉

#### من يجب عليه الإبلاغ؟ 감염 증상 신고

- আত্ৰ প্ৰাৰ্থমন্ত? 

   পুৰুষ্ণান্ত প্ৰাৰ্থ প্ৰতিষ্ঠান প্য প্ৰতিষ্ঠান প্ৰতিষ্ঠান প্ৰতিষ্ঠান প্ৰতিষ্ঠান প্ৰতিষ্ঠান প্ৰতিষ্ঠ
- 1) من بين أو لنك الذين لديهم حمى وأعراض تنفسية (السعال وضيق التنفس والالتهاب الرئوى ومتلازمة ضيق التنفس الحادة وغيرها)

발열과 호흡기증생기침, 호흡곤란, 폐렴, 급성호흡곤란증후군 등)이 있으면서

- -الشخص الذي زار دول الشرق الأوسط في غضون 14 يوما قبل ظهور الأعراض 중상이 나타나기 전 14일 이내에 중동지역\*을 방문한 자
  - الشخص الذي اتصل اتصالا قريبا مع مريض مشكوك بإصابته بميرس في أثناء إظهاره أعراض ميرس

메르스 의심환자가 증상이 있는 동안 밀접하게 접촉한 자

2) من بين أولنك الذين لديهم حمى و أعراض تنفسية (السعال وضيق التنفس وغيرها)، الشخص الذي اتصل اتصالا قريبا بمريض تم التأكد من إصابته بميرس في أثناء إظهاره أعراض ميرس

> 발열 또는 호흡기증상(기침, 호흡곤란 등)이 있고, 메르스 확진환자가 중상이 있는 동안 밀접하게 접촉한 자

\* شبه الجزيرة العربية والدول (المناطق) المجاورة لها: البحرين، العراق، إيران، إسرائيل، الأردن، الكويت، لبنان، عمان، قطر، السعودية، سوريا، الإمارات، اليمن (السعودية والإمارات وعُمان وقطر والكويت هي الدول التي تفشي فيها فيروس ميرس في عام 2016 ، وتمثل المناطق الملوثة بالأمراض المعدية الخاصة با لحجر الصحى. ويجب على زوار هذه الدول أن يملؤوا بياتات عن الحالة الصحية عند دخول كوريا ويتقدموا بها إلى موظفى الحجر الصحى)

아라바인반도 및 그 인근 국가지역(바레인 이리크, 이란, 이스라엘 요르단 쿠웨이트, 레바논, 오만 카타르, 사우디이라비아, 시리아, 이렇에미리트, 예엔

(2016년 메르스 발생국가인 사우디아라비아, 아랍에미리트, 오만 카타로, 쿠웨이트는 검역감염병 오염지역으로 입국 시 반드시 건강상태 질문서를 작성하여 검역관에게 제출해야 함)

#### ما هو ميرس؟ ?메르스란?

هو الأمراض التنفسية الحادة التي يسببها فيروس كورونا الجديد (MERS-COV).

り卓見

신종 코로나바이러스(MERS-COV)에 의한 급성호흡기 질환을 말합니다.



ন্তু মু সুহু প্রত্থাক والأعراض হুত্র মু পুকু





중흥고라





반면

ضيق التنفس

기침

진복기 فترة الكمون 이

من يومين إلى 14 يوما (تقريبا) كالمحتج الحام 2~14 من يومين إلى 14 يوما

# ما الذي يجب الالتزام به من أجل الوقاية من الإصابة بميرس؟



اغسلوا أيديكم بالماء والصابون. 물과 비누로 자주 손씻기



حافظوا على النظافة الشخصية الجيدة (لا تلمسوا أعينكم أو أنوفكم أو أَقُوا هَكُمْ قَبِلُ غَسَلُ أَيْدِيكُمْ).

개인 위생 철저 (씻지 않은 손으로 눈, 코, 입 만지지 않기)



عندما تسعلون أو تعطسون، تأكدوا من تغطية أفواهكم وأنوفكم بمنديل ورقى ثم القائم في سلة القمامة.

기침, 재채기 시 휴지로 입과 코를 가리고, 휴지는 반드시 쓰레기통에 버리기



تجنبوا الاتصال المباشر مع الناس الذين لديهم حمى أو أعراض تنفسية. 발열이나 호흡기 증상이 있는 사람과 접촉을 피하기



تجنبوا الاتصال المباشر مع الجمال في أثناء السفر إلى دول الشرق الأوسط. 중동 지역을 여행하는 동안 낙타와 접촉을 피할 것