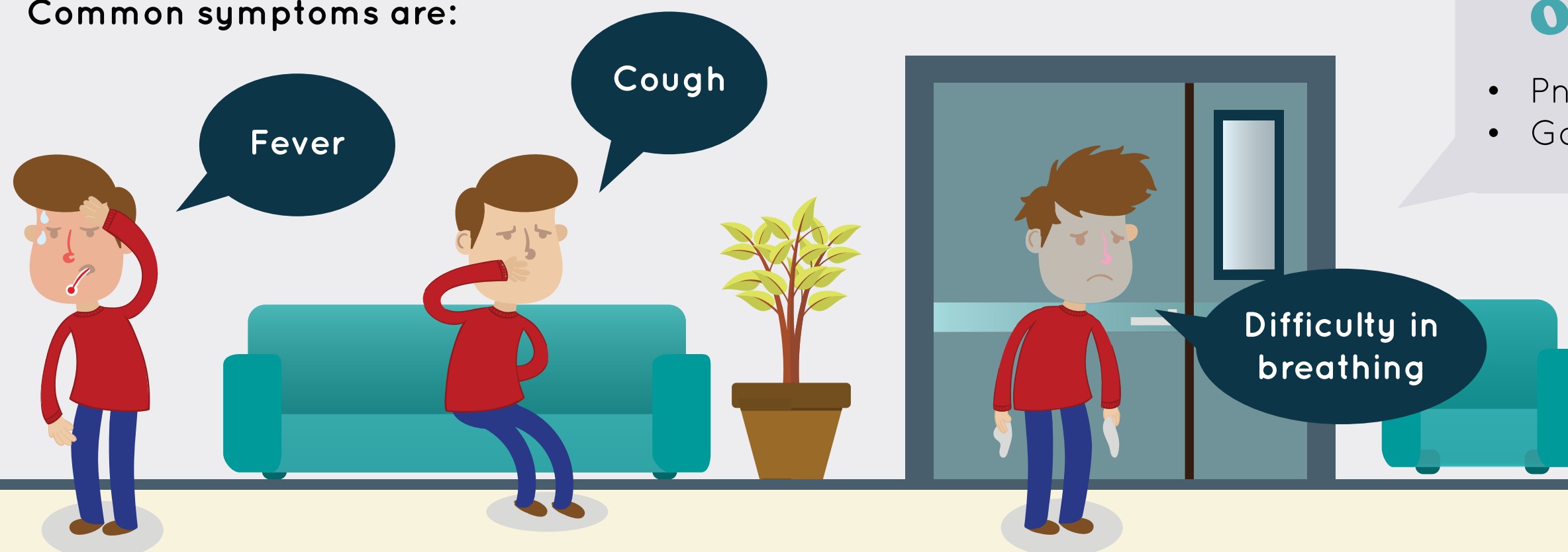


# Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), also referred to as novel coronavirus, is an acute respiratory illness that can be fatal in infected patients. MERS-CoV was first reported by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2012 in Saudi Arabia.

## Symptoms

Common symptoms are:

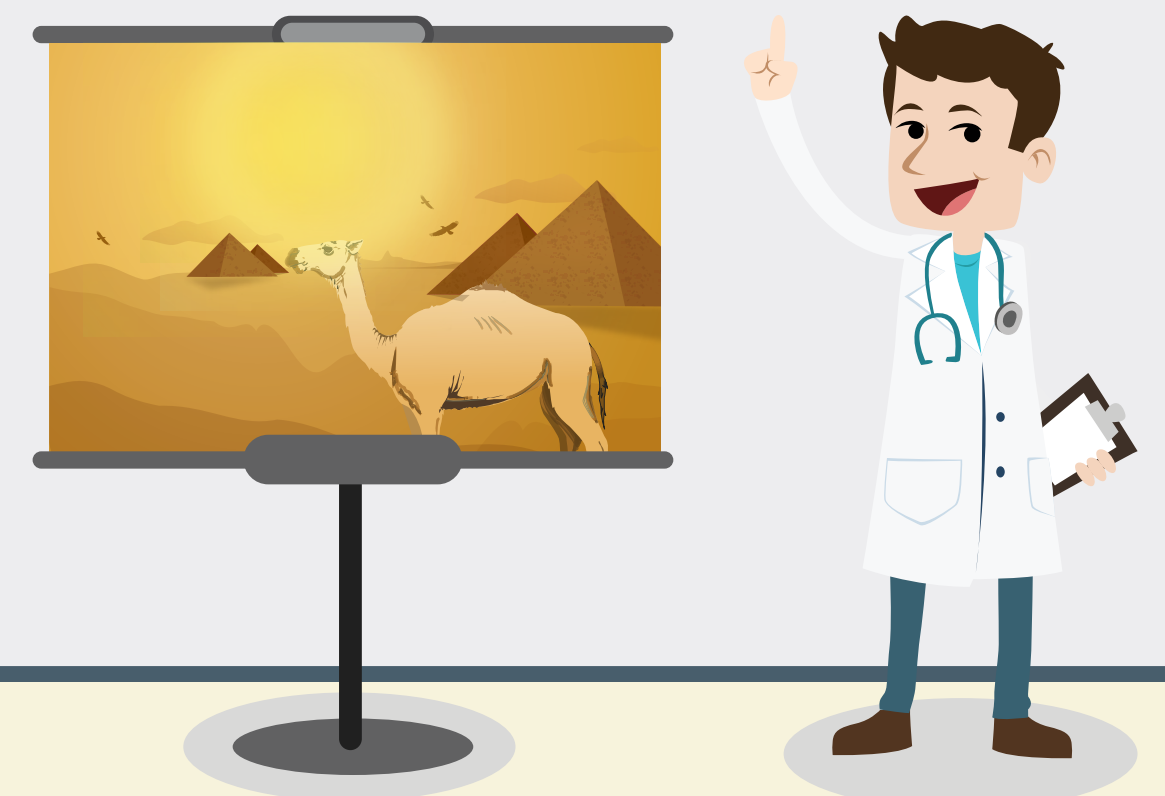


## Other possible symptoms

- Pneumonia is commonly observed, but not always present
- Gastrointestinal symptoms, including diarrhoea

## Transmission

- Sources of MERS has yet to be determined although camels have been identified as possible carriers
- Infection is believed to be via direct or indirect contact with infected dromedary camels in the Middle East.
- Human to human infection occurs through close contact with infected patients



## Reported Cases

The following countries have confirmed cases of MERS reported in 2015:

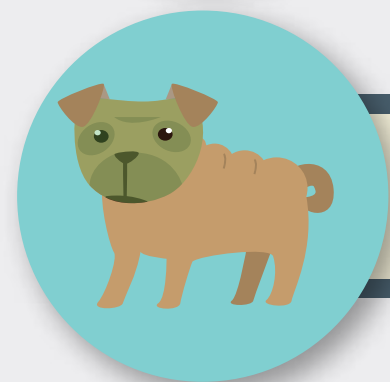


Source: Global Alert and Response, World Health Organisation, 2015 (accurate as of 9 July 2015)

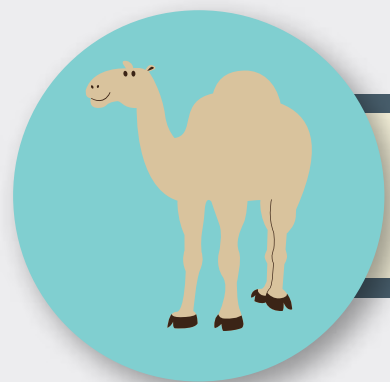
## Preventive measures



Wash hands regularly, use hand sanitizers



Avoid contact with sick animals



Avoid contact with camels



Avoid touching face with unwashed hands, especially eye, nose and mouth areas



Observe general hygiene practices



Avoid consumption of raw or undercooked animal products, including milk, meat and eggs, as these carry a high risk of infection from a variety of organisms that might cause diseases in humans

## References

Ministry of Health, 2015. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). Retrieved from [https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh\\_web/home/pressRoom/Current\\_Issues/2014/middle-east-respiratory-syndrome-coronavirus--mers-cov-.html](https://www.moh.gov.sg/content/moh_web/home/pressRoom/Current_Issues/2014/middle-east-respiratory-syndrome-coronavirus--mers-cov-.html)

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World Health Organization, 2015. Global alert and response. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus\\_infections/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/)

Be S.U.R.E. before you share. For more information, you may refer to the Ministry of Health web page at [www.moh.gov.sg](http://www.moh.gov.sg)

For the latest global situation update on MERS-CoV, you may refer to the World Health Organization website at [http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/coronavirus\\_infections/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/)