

## **SARI-Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERs-CoV) Guideline**

MERS-CoV is highly infectious, with a 50% mortality rate.

***Consider MERS-CoV in any patient with fever and severe acute respiratory illness who has recently returned from the Middle East, or has had contact with a case.\****

### **Criteria for Possible MERs-CoV**

#### **Any person with acute severe respiratory infection:**

Fever > 38°C

Lower respiratory tract symptoms (cough/shortness of breath)

**OR** Severe acute illness requiring hospitalisation

**AND** Clinical or radiological evidence of pulmonary parenchymal disease or ARDS

**AND** Not explained by any other illness

#### **AND EITHER**

Travel/Contact with travellers to MERSCoV areas in last 14 days\*

**OR** Close contact in the 14 days before symptom onset with a confirmed case of MERSCoV

**OR** Healthcare Worker based in ICU caring for patients with severe acute respiratory infection **regardless of history of travel or use of PPE**

**OR** Part of a cluster of two or more epidemiologically linked cases within a two week period requiring ICU admission, **regardless of history of travel.**

\*Presence in an area of risk in the preceding **14 days**:

*Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Oman, Qatar, Syria, UAE, Yemen and South Korea*

Patients diagnosed to date have had primarily respiratory disease.

**Diarrhoea** is also commonly reported among patients and severe complications include AKI and ARDS.

**Immunocompromised patients** possibly may present with atypical signs and symptoms.

### **Management**

- Adopt infection prevention and control precautions for Severe Acute Respiratory Infections. (**Management of patients with SARI guideline**)
- Send sputum samples and duplicate sets of nose and throat swabs in viral transport media, and blood in brown tube. See **lab guidance**

**Critical Care Guidelines  
FOR CRITICAL CARE USE ONLY**

(<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/coronavirus-lab-guidance.pdf>)

- Inform Microbiology and Virology
- Notify Health Protection Team) (08.30 - 17.00 Monday – Friday  
call 0131 465 5420 out of hours: 0131 242 1000 (ask for public health on call)
- Follow guidance in **HPS Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) CASE MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM v14**  
(<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/mers-secondary-care-algorithm-v14.pdf>)

## Links

<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/mers-secondary-care-algorithm-v14.pdf>

<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/information-healthcare-professionals.pdf>

<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/mers-primary-care-algorithm-v2.pdf>

<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/mers-close-contact-algorithm-v14.pdf>

<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/mers-laboratory-testing->

<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/mers-information-microbiologists-and-virologists-v6.pdf>

[algorithm-v9.pdf](#)

<http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/respiratory/coronavirus/avian-influenza-mers-cov-ipcp-guidance-v7.2.pdf>

<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/resp/coronavirus.aspx>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/360424/MERS\\_COV\\_information\\_for\\_clinicians\\_17\\_July.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/360424/MERS_COV_information_for_clinicians_17_July.pdf)

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