

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

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