



IMPORTANT REMINDER

of MERS-CoV infection

WHAT IS *MERS-CoV INFECTION?

MERS-CoV infection causes acute respiratory illness, which presented typically with fever, cough and shortness of breath. Pneumonia is a common finding on clinical examination. Gastrointestinal symptoms, including diarrhoea, have also been reported. The virus appears to cause more severe disease in people with weakened immune systems, older people and those with chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung disease. It is not yet understood exactly how people become infected with MERS-CoV and the full picture on the source of infection is not yet clear. Thus far, the virus does not seem to pass easily from person to person unless there is close contact. No vaccine or specific treatment is currently available for MERS-CoV infection.


* MERS-CoV: Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus





GENERAL ADVICE

World Health Organization (WHO) does not advise any travel or trade restrictions to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) affected countries. Based on the current situation in Arabian Peninsula and Republic of Korea (ROK), Ministry of Health Malaysia would like to advise, travellers going to the Arabian Peninsula and the Republic of Korea:


- a) To practice good personal hygiene as the following :
 - Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and bring along during travelling.
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth because germs spread this way.
 - Wear face mask when necessary, especially when going to crowded places.
- b) To avoid unnecessary visit to households or healthcare settings that have been affected by MERS-CoV outbreak.
- c) To avoid close contact with sick people.
- d) For travellers going to the Arabian Peninsula, they should :

- Avoid contact with camels.
 - Do not drink raw camel milk or raw camel urine.
 - Do not eat undercooked meat, particularly camel meat.
- e) Should seek prompt medical attention if having symptoms suggestive of MERS-CoV infection (i.e. fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath), within 14 days upon returning to Malaysia. It is important that they mention about their recent travel history to the attending doctor.
- f) To limit contact with others as much as possible - once symptomatic.





Published by:
Ministry of Health Malaysia
www.infosihat.gov.my | www.myhealth.gov.my



Middle East Respiratory Syndrome