

HEALTH ADVISORY

Updated Information and Guidelines for Evaluation of Patients for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

June 15, 2015

Colleagues:

Please note the rising potential risk for Washington State to experience a MERS-CoV case. Please continue to screen your patients for a travel history, and maintain an index of suspicion for MERS-CoV. You can find the Health Advisory from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00380.asp>. Immediately report any suspect cases of MERS-CoV to our Communicable Disease Staff who are available 24/7 at our main number, 360-337-5235. Thank you.

For detailed guidance, see the message below from Dr. Lindquist, WA DOH Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease.

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Dear Partners,

As Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) activity in the Republic of Korea is increasing, I wanted to make sure you all had resources to help augment your preparedness, communication, and response in your health jurisdictions. The risk groups currently include travel within the last 14 days to the Arabian Peninsula. Countries considered in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring countries include: Bahrain; Iraq; Iran; Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Syria; the United Arab Emirates (UAE); and Yemen.

The most recent change in risk is the addition of persons who have been in a healthcare facility (visitors, patients or workers) within the Republic of Korea in the last 14 days **as well as** travelers to the Arabian Peninsula. So once again, a complete travel history is key to identifying persons at risk for MERS. How to get that message out in your community is a challenge but I have included links to several documents to make it somewhat easier for you. The main page for MERS CoV on the DOH website has the following resources and more. The address is

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/NotifiableConditions/MERSCoV> and contains the following updated documents.

The first document is the MERS “Surveillance and Reporting Guideline” that provide a broad overview of what MERS-CoV is and how to investigate and report it:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-107-Guideline-MERS-CoV.pdf>

The second document is a document on how to get testing done at the PHL:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-109-MERS-CoV-PHL-Testing.pdf>

The third document is a summary of “Key Messages for Healthcare Providers”:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-108-MERS-CoV-MessagesHCP.pdf>

I hope this helps and feel free to give me any feedback.

Scott

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