



OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

2015 Update

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To: St. Clair County Providers,
Hospital ICPs, Emergency
Departments, ED Physicians.
From: SCCHD
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UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATION OF PATIENTS FOR MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS (MERS-CoV) INFECTION

This advisory is to provide updated guidance to healthcare providers in the evaluation of patients for MERS-CoV infection, which has been revised in light of the current situation in the Republic of Korea.

Recommendations:

- Be prepared to detect and manage cases of MERS.
- Routinely ask patients about travel history and healthcare facility exposure.
- Persons who meet the following updated criteria for PUI should be evaluated for MERS-CoV infection in addition to other common respiratory pathogens and immediately reported to St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD):
 1. Fever **AND** pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome (based on clinical or radiologic evidence) **AND** one of the following:
 - A history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula (Bahrain; Iraq; Iran; Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Syria; the United Arab Emirates; and Yemen) within 14 days before symptom onset, **OR** close contact with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula, **OR**
 - A history of being in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker, or visitor) in the Republic of Korea within 14 days before symptom onset, **OR**
 - A member of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness (e.g., fever and pneumonia requiring hospitalization) of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is being evaluated.
 - OR**
 2. Fever **AND** symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia; e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND** a history of being in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker, or visitor) within 14 days before symptom onset in a country or territory in or near the Arabian Peninsula in which recent healthcare-associated cases of MERS have been identified.
 - OR**
 3. Fever **OR** symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia; e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **AND** close contact with a confirmed MERS case while the case was ill.
- Infection control measures, including standard, contact, and airborne precautions should be utilized.
- Multiple specimens for testing are recommended (lower respiratory specimen, a nasopharyngeal/oropharyngeal swab, and serum).

Contact SCCHD for reporting and questions at (810) 987-5300 during regular business hours. Refer to the "After Hours Emergency Contact List" for afterhours contact.