



Ref: PHD/DCS/CDU/C-12/2016

Date: 21 April, 2016

## Reminder Circular

**To: All Doctors, Nurses, and Pharmacists in Government and private hospitals and clinics.**

**Subject: Reporting Of Suspected Cases Of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus (MERS-CoV).**

In view of the reporting cases of MERS-CoV in the region including the Kingdom of Bahrain ,you are kindly requested to notify any suspected case of MERS-CoV through Diseases Control Section hotline (Tel:66399868) and following the attached guideline for case definition and investigation.

Thanking you for your cooperation.

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Ag. Assistant undersecretary for  
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## Case Definition And Laboratory Testing

### **A. Suspected case**

#### **Adults (> 14 years)**

1. Acute respiratory illness with clinical and/or radiological, evidence of pulmonary parenchymal disease (pneumonia or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome).

AND

The person resides or travelled within 2 weeks to countries where MERS-CoV is known to be circulating in dromedary camels or where human infections have recently occurred.

2. Upper or lower respiratory illness within 2 weeks after exposure to a confirmed or probable case of MERS-CoV infection.
3. Unexplained acute febrile ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) illness, AND body aches, headache, diarrhea, or nausea/vomiting, with or without respiratory symptoms, AND leucopenia ( $\text{WBC} < 3.5 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ ) and thrombocytopenia ( $\text{platelets} < 150 \times 10^9/\text{L}$ )

AND

The person resides or travelled within 2 weeks to countries where MERS-CoV is known to be circulating in dromedary camels or where human infections have recently occurred

#### **Pediatrics ( $\leq 14$ years)**

1. Meets the above case definitions and has at least one of the following:
  - a. History of exposure to a confirmed or suspected MERS CoV in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms
  - b. History of contact with camels or camel products in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms
2. Unexplained severe pneumonia

### **B. Probable case**

A probable case is a patient in category (1) above (Adults and pediatrics) with inconclusive laboratory results for MERS-CoV

### **C. Confirmed case**

A person with laboratory confirmation of MERS-CoV infection.

**Cases eligible for MERS-CoV sample collection:**

- Cases that fit case definition
- The case should be discussed and notified through communicable diseases hotline Tel:66399868

**Recommended samples:**

- The preferred sample is deep tracheal aspirate (DTA) but nasopharyngeal swab can be collected if DTA is not possible.

**Transportation of sample**

- Transfer the sample into a Viral Transport Medium (VTM)
- Transport the Sample to Public Health Laboratory in COLD Chain (4°C) before 9:00 AM. If a delay in transferring samples of > 48 hours consider freezing and shipping with dry ice.
- Follow infection control measures during sample collection and transportation  
The reporting physician should fill in the Laboratory Request Form