

Advice for the general public

- Avoid close contact to patients with cough or sneezing.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water, especially after touching secretion from patients, before eating food, and after toilet use.
- Avoid visits to crowded areas or overcrowded public places. If a visit to crowded places could not be avoided, a surgical mask should be worn to reduce the risk of contracting diseases.
- Patients are recommended to wear surgical masks covering the mouth and nose when cough or sneeze.
- Follow the practice for good hygiene, i.e. eat hot food, use serving spoons, and wash hands regularly.



Further inquiries can be made at

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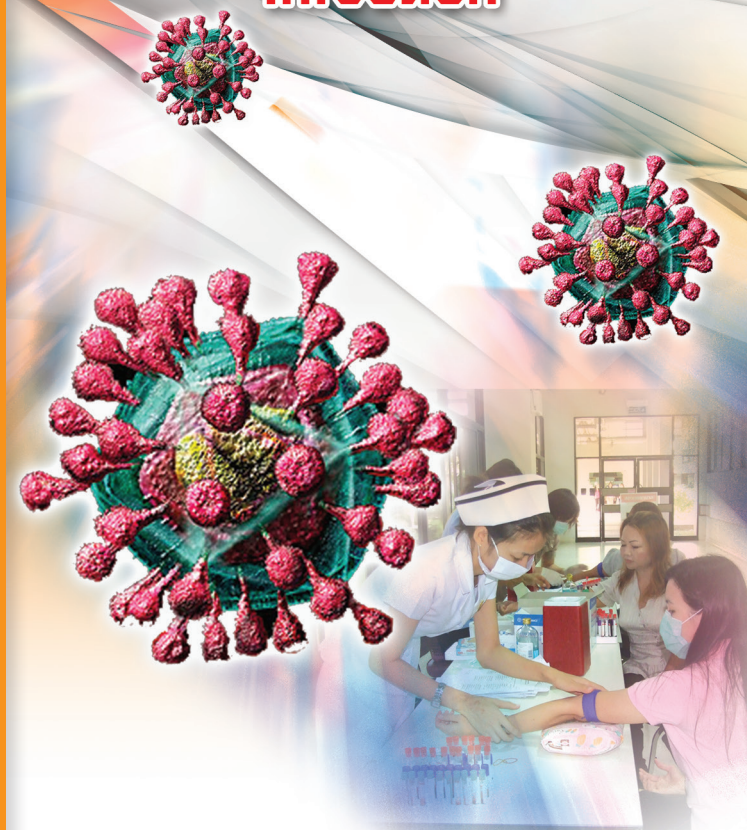


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Early notice for effective prevention

The 2012 Novel Coronavirus

or
Middle East Respiratory
Syndrome Coronavirus
(MERS-CoV)
Infection

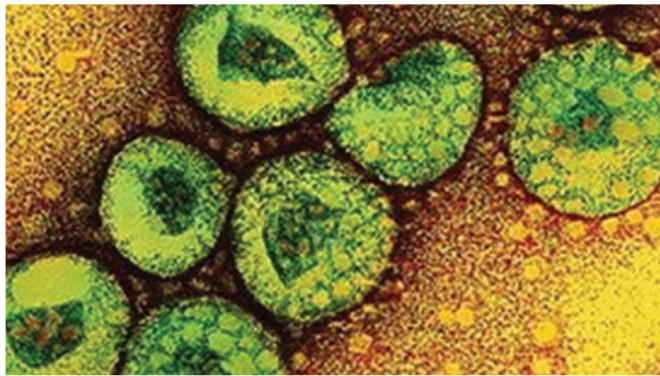


Good Health Start Here



A new infection caused by the novel Coronavirus 2012 has been named for medical purposes as the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection. It was identified for the first time in Middle East countries such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, etc.

The infection is classified as one of the Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs). Let us know more about MERS-CoV infection so as to protect ourselves MERS-CoV infection so as to protect



What is the MERS-CoV infection?

The infection is caused by a virus which belongs to the Coronavirus family. The virus was discovered for the first time in April 2012. It was a novel Coronavirus which had never been found in human.

Although this 2012 novel Coronavirus is in the same family as SARS virus, both are not the same species.

How can MERS-CoV spread?

It is not yet clear how this virus can be transmitted, making the disease spread. The World Health Organization (WHO) has asked member states to continue their surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI), and to carefully review any unusual patterns of occurrence among those patients or pneumonia cases. The WHO will keep member states informed of any development of the situation.

What are the symptoms of MERS-CoV infection?

Generally the symptoms of an acute respiratory tract infection are present, i.e. fever, cough, Influenza-like. In some cases more severe symptoms can be present, such as dyspnea, difficulty in breathing, pneumonia, and respiratory failure which may lead to death. Hence respiratory precaution to prevent the spread of infection should be made by wearing surgical mask when cough or sneeze and avoiding crowded areas. Some patients may also have symptoms of the gastro-intestinal system such as diarrhea. Some may have renal failure. Patients with underlying diseases which impair their immunity may have different presentation of the disease

Can MERS-CoV infection spread from human to human?

There have been reports of limited human to human transmission among medical staff, caretakers, members of the same family, and among close friends. So far there has been no report of wide-spread transmission in communities.



Advice for international travelers

Before departure

Keep the body fit. If underlying diseases are present, special precaution should be taken and more attention directed to the practice of good personal hygiene such as hand washing, etc.



While staying abroad

Avoid close contact to patients of respiratory diseases. Avoid unnecessary visits to crowded areas. Travelers with underlying diseases should wear surgical masks regularly, change masks and wash hands with soap and water frequently. If there are flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, sneezing, running nose, a surgical mask should be worn and close contact with other people avoided. If symptoms do not subside, or there is dyspnea or difficulty in breathing, a medical consultation should be made.

After arrival in Thailand

- Travelers arriving from high risk areas need continued observation for abnormal symptoms during the next 30 days.



- Close contacts of travelers who arrived from high risk areas need continued observation for abnormal symptoms for 14 days.

- If fever, cough, sore throat, and running nose are present, a home rest should be made. However, if symptoms are not subsiding within 2 days or high fever, dyspnea, or difficulty in breathing are present, a medical consultation should be made with a note on travel history.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus : MERS-CoV