

Traveller Information Sheets



MERS - CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona virus)

MERS – CoV is viral respiratory illness first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012.

Where is Mers - CoV?

As of 2014, cases have been reported in France, Germany, Italy Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. All cases have had some connection with the Middle East. Approximately 50% of affected people have died. Currently there are no restrictions on travel to any of these areas.

Symptoms

- Acute, serious respiratory illness with high fever (>38 degrees).
- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing.
- Past history of pneumonia
- Diarrhoea

Prevention / vaccination

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an [alcohol-based hand sanitizer](#).
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick:
 - Cover your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Avoid contact with other people to keep from infecting them.

Currently there is no vaccination available.

Pilgrims travelling to Hajj or Umra

Persons with a current chronic condition such as diabetes, lung disease, and immunodeficiency may be at increased risk of illness, including MERS CoV infection. Consultation with a travel medicine practitioner is advisable to assess if making the pilgrimage is advisable.

Reference

World health Organisation, 2013, Geneva Switzerland, viewed 13th April 2014, <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/faq/en/>

Centres for disease control and prevention, 2013, Atlanta GA, viewed 13th April 2014, <<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/coronavirus-arabian-peninsula-uk>>

World Health Organisation, 2013, Geneva Switzerland, viewed 13th April 2014, <<http://www.who.int/ith/updates/20130725/en/>>