

Situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Thailand
(as of February 11st, 2016.)

Situation - February 11st, 2016

MOPH updates on MERS case: Oman MERS case return home after tests negative

MOPH - An Omani MERS case, under medical care at Bamrassnaradura Institute, has returned home today after recovery and test negative for MERS virus. Transfer home was made by standard procedures according to International Health Regulation- 2005.

Today, evening of Feb 11st, 2016 – Dr. Sopon Mekthon, Permanent Secretary and Dr. Amnuay Kajeena, director of the department of disease control give a press release to media. The clinical condition of an Omani, 71 years olds has returned to normal and had two consecutive samples tested negative by molecular laboratory methods with cross confirmation among 3 laboratories. He was transferred back to his country by the coordination with Oman Embassy, and the transfer was done according to the standard procedures of the International Health Regulation. His relative, who accompanied him and stayed in the same hospital, remained healthy and tested negative for MERS. Both were returned together. All contacts to the case were allowed to return during February 5th - 6th, 2016. All were healthy – consisted of 2 taxi drivers, 22 passengers and 11 hospital staffs. All contacts were monitored regularly by trained staffs.

Dr. Amnuay added that the patient had been treated for MERS as well as his underlying disease such as diabetes which had improved. He was allowed to return home after careful medical checked up by infectious specialist, epidemiologist in addition of 2 consecutive tests negative for MERS conducted by 3 different laboratories. This is to ensure that the infection had been eliminated and warrant the medical certification. The patient and his relative received medical advices and transfer were made in conjunction with embassy staff as well as the air line.

Bamrassnaradura Institute, which taking care the patient for the whole period, has already done the full disinfection procedures according to the standard of hospital infection control. Public can be assured the safety standard of the infection control and the measures of the Ministry. Dr. Amnuay urged the public to take care personal health. Those who have cough or sneeze should always wear mask and use handkerchief or tissues to prevent the exposure to other people. Persons who have unstable health or chronic disease should avoid traveling to MERS endemic area. Whenever traveling to-from endemic area, please contact hospital, doctor immediately if having fever cough or respiratory symptoms within 14 days after departure. Call 1422 for more information