

## Situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Thailand

(as of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.)

### Situation - February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

1. One laboratory confirmed case, a 71 years old Omani, was detected. (remain the same)
2. All 40 “high risk contact” were successfully followed. Currently, 26 persons are in designated facilities for proper isolation and all remain healthy.
3. Global situation – WHO reported, as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, a total of 1632 cases in 26 countries with 587 deaths.
4. Avoid all rumors and mis-information. Always follow and get the information providing by the Ministry of Public Health or call 1422 for further inquiry.

**MOPH Update on MERS: Thirteen Contacts (13) completed the observation period, a relative remained in observation.**

Dr. AmnuayKajeena, Director General, after visiting the hospital and laboratory, said the patient’s condition of 71 years old Omani was stable, had no fever. The patient could walk, eat as normal, but still need oxygen therapy. A sputum specimen had positive test for MERS and the patient was still in isolation room for proper medical care at Bamrassnaradura Infectious Institute.

Of all 40 “high risk” contacts, all were successfully followed by medical team and trained public health staffs. Twenty six were in isolation and proper medical care at designated facilities, consisted of one relative, 2 taxi drivers, 4 hotel staffs, 11 hospital staffs, 8 passengers on the same flight. One passenger, who completed observation period, returned home country (February 4th). Another 14 persons also completed the 14 days observation period in the afternoon (2 taxi, 7 passengers, 4 hotel staffs) and 11 hospital staffs however a relative of the confirmed case will remain in hospital. All 14 persons were test negative for MERS and also received medical examinations.

Dr. AmnuayKajeena reassured the competency and efficiency of public health surveillance and public health measures could prevent and contain the infection. He urged the public to take care personal health. Those who have cough or sneeze should always wear mask and use handkerchief or tissues. 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

### **Hot Line 1422 services in the past 24 hours (February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016)**

A total of 70 calls received, there were 43 calls asking for MERS on hospital screening and service for suspect MERS case, Zika virus, Dengue Hemorrhagic fever and others.

#### **Advices on MERS prevention**

1. Always avoid direct or close contact with persons who have respiratory symptoms such as cough, sneezing
2. Keep good health and good hygiene. Always eat hot-clean food, regular hand washing and use proper utensils while eating with others
3. Whenever having respiratory symptoms, please avoid exposure to others, wear mask, using handkerchiefs or tissue and dispose them properly. Contact health facilities, doctors or nearby hospital if you return from MERS endemic area (such as Middle East) or you have contacted to person who is MERS suspects.