

Situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Thailand (as of February 6th, 2016.)

Situation - February 6th, 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 2nd, 2016, a total of 1638 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: All contacts completed 14 days period, healthy and returned.

Dr. Amnuay Kajeena, 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.

All 40 “high risk” contacts were successfully followed by medical team and trained public health staffs. Twenty six 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). On February 5th, 13 persons who completed 14-days period returned home (2 taxi, 7 passengers, 4 hotel staffs). However, one relative was still under observation in the same hospital as the confirmed case.

Dr. Amnuay Kajeena reassured the competency and efficiency of public health surveillance and public health measures. 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 5th, 2016)

A total of 70 calls received, there were 34 calls with 3 lines asking for MERS. The overall question were the concern on hospital screening and service for suspect MERS case and general situation of MERS.

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.