

Update Information – Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Thailand
(as of January 28th, 2016 at 1700 pm)

Situation - January 28th, 2016

1. One laboratory confirmed case detected (remained the same). The patient is male, 71 years old Omani.
2. A total of 40 persons classified as “High Risk Contacts” were identified, 39 persons were found, received proper with isolation and supervision. One person, a foreign tourist, is still in the process of tracing.
3. Global situation of MERS, World Health Organization (WHO) reported 1626 cases in 26 countries, with total 586 deaths.
4. Avoid the rumor and mis-information, please regularly follow the information provided by Ministry of Public Health. Call 1422 for further inquiry.

Update from Ministry of Public Health: MOPH increase the surveillance activities, focusing on travelers from Oman, urge to hospitals. Travelers from the Middle East countries who have fever, cough are required to see the doctor at hospitals and provide full travel history

Director General of the Department of Disease control, Dr. AmnuayKajeena and Professor PrasertThongchareon, Virologist and Advisor to the Department of Disease Control updated the condition of patient and control measures in Thailand. The patient has still under medical care in the isolation room at Bamrassnaradura Infectious Institute, no fever, mild difficult breathing and is still remain on oxygen support via nasal route. He is able to walk, well conscious and eat normally. The overall condition of patient remains stable, under close attention by physicians and continue medical care.

Dr. Amnuay added that among the 40 persons, classified as “high risk”, 39 persons were found, within 4 days after the confirm infection, by the cooperation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Embassies and all related agencies at province and private sectors such as Immigration Police Office, Royal Thai Police, Airport Authority of Thailand etc.

At present, 25 persons have been in proper isolation at designated medical facilities. They are consisted of one relative, 2 taxi drivers, 4 hotel staffs, 11 hospital staffs and 7 passengers.

There were 22 passengers who were at risk to exposure during the flight, 21 were identified to receive proper care and advices. One person of this group, a foreigner, has been following by the embassy team. All of “high risk contacts” have no illness, unable to carry the infection. There are no reasons to be panic. Fourteen (14) passengers were allowed to leave the country by coordination of relevant foreign embassy and adhere to safety standard of the International Health Regulation (IHR). All passengers who were allowed to return were screened for diseases and symptoms. Those who have any suspected symptom will not be allowed to leave, will need laboratory test to proof no infection. All “to-be-return” passengers received counselling, medical advice and share information via Health Focal Point according to IHR to the country of destination.

In addition, Thai Ministry of Public Health added 4 control measures whivhincluded a)International coordination through WHO/IHR mechanism b) More attention, focusing on screening for passenger from Oman c) Hospital Infection control in all hospitals d) Provincial and community level with the participation of all health volunteers.

MOPH urges the public and all individual to pay attention to keep healthy practice during this period of rapid changes of weather conditions. People should always keep clean sanitation, eat hot and healthy food, avoid cross contamination during eating and regularly do hand washing. People who have cough or respiratory symptom should wear nose-mouth covered mask. People who have chronic disease or unstable health conditions should avoid the travel to endemic area. When traveling to endemic country, please avoid direct or close contact to camel and avoid visiting the hospital or persons with illness. It is important to advice that all travelers from the Middle East are required to see and report to the doctor immediately, particularly if having fever, cough and should wear respiratory mask. Call 1422 (or 1669) for more information and helps.

Hot line 1422 Services

There were 37 calls in the past 24 hours of January 27th, 6 calls concerned about MERS such as the disease symptoms, spreading mechanism, endemic area and control measures.

Daily Advices

1. Avoid close contacts with person with respiratory illness, cough or sneezing
2. Always practice healthy hygiene and hand washing
3. Always wear mask when having respiratory symptom, cough or sneezing, to prevent spreading of viruses. Seek medical service immediately if you are returning from endemic area and tell the travelling history, or contact to suspected MERS to the doctor at nearby hospitals.