

Situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Thailand

(as of January 29th, 2016.)

Situation - January 29th, 2016

1. One laboratory confirmed case, a 71 years old Omani, was detected. (remain the same)
2. All 40 “high risk contact” were followed and 26 persons are in designated facilities for proper isolation.
3. Global situation – WHO reported, as of January 30th, 2016, a total of 1632 cases in 26 countries with 587 deaths.
4. Avoid all rumors and unreliable information. Please look up the information providing by the Ministry of Public Health or call 1422 for further inquiry.

Ministry of Public Health declared all 40 persons with “high risk contacts” were properly followed, all in good health and under proper observation.

Dr. Amnuay Kajeena, Director General of the Department of Disease Control revealed that the patient, 71 years old Omani, had been in isolation room for proper medical care at Bamrasnaradura Infectious Institute. The patient had low fever and the overall clinical improvement, mild rapid respiration which still required oxygen support via nasal route. The patient was able to walk, talk, eat and continued under close medical care. All 40 “high risk” contacts, all were followed by medical team and trained public health staffs. There were one relative, 2 taxi drivers, 4 hotel staffs, 11 private hospital staffs, 22 passengers (14 foreigners and 8 Thais). Fourteen persons, with no symptoms and proper medical examination, were allowed to return to their countries with standard procedure according to International Health Regulation and by proper contact to relevant embassies/officials. The successful of complete tracing and follow up had been attributable to the cooperation of all relevant organizations, agencies such as Bangkok Administration, Royal Thai Police, Immigration, Airport Authority of Thailand, Ministry of Foreign Affair etc. Department of Disease Control would like to thank for the cooperation of all 40 persons who agreed to follow and complied to the prevention measures to ensure public safety and prevent the outbreak.

Dr. Amnuay also urges the public to continue normal daily life and follow the advices from the ministry. As the proper measures have been implementing with full scale and the patient has been isolating in the hospital with experienced staffs, the public could be confident with our health system. Always eat clean hot foods, regular hand washing and use proper utensil while eating in group. Persons who have unstable health or chronic disease should avoid

traveling to MERS endemic area and when return from endemic area please contact hospital, doctor immediately if you have fever cough or respiratory symptoms with 14 days after departure. Call 1422 for more information.

Hot line 1422 services in summary

During the past 24 hours of Jan 27th, there were 37 calls, with 2 calls concerning MERS. There were question from private hospital staff asking for MERS counseling service process and a call for control measure to prevent MERS.

Advice for MERS prevention – Daily tip.

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 contact to person who is MERS suspected case(s).