

Situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Thailand

(as of January 30, 2016.)

Situation - January 30th, 2016

1. One laboratory confirmed case, a 71 years old Omani, was detected. (remain the same)
2. All 40 “high risk contact” were followed. Currently, 26 persons are in designated facilities for proper isolation.
3. Global situation – WHO reported, as of January 29th, 2016, a total of 1632 cases in 26 countries with 587 deaths.
4. Avoid all rumors and mis-information, please see the information providing by the Ministry of Public Health or call 1422 for further inquiry.

2. Update MOPH: MERS case improved – low fever and mild difficult breathing, still require oxygen support. Close observation and medical care in an isolation room continued.

Dr. Amnuay Kajeena, Director General of the Department of Disease Control added that the patient, 71 years old Omani, had still been in isolation room for proper medical care at Bamrassnaradura Infectious Institute. The patient had low fever, yesterday, with 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. Of all 40 “high risk” contacts, all were 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 private hospital staffs, 8 passengers on the same flight (5 foreigners and 3 Thais). All are in good health.

To ensure public safety, MOPH continue stringent control measures as follow

1. Screening MERS for passengers arriving from MERS endemic area at international port of entries
2. All hospitals provide screening check point for respiratory illness
3. Prepare rapid response team at all provinces
4. All teams follow the standard procedures for investigation, isolation and referral system and immediately report of the suspected event or case.

Public should be assured of safety by the continue stringent measures of the government and follow the advices. Avoid direct or close contact with persons who have respiratory illness. Always wear mask (surgical or cover nose-mouth mask) whenever having respiratory symptoms. 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.

Call 1422 services in the past 24 hours with MERS

During the past 24 hours service, January 29th, there were 38 calls with 4 lines on MERS inquiry.

There were inquiries for advice when travel to endemic area, control measures and general knowledges.

Advices for the days 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 contact to person who is MERS suspected case(s).