

Situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Thailand (as of January 31st, 2016.)

Situation - January 31st, 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 updated the patient conditions, with improvement and continue closely medical care in the isolation room.

Dr. Amnuay Kajeena, Director General of the Department of Disease Control revealed that the patient, 71 years old Omani, had still been in isolation room for proper medical care at Bamrassnaradura Infectious Institute. The patient had no 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. 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 stable and good health, and will be under close supervision to complete 14 days.

Dr. Amnuay 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.

Call 1422 Service on MERS

During the past 24 hours of January 30th, there were 36 calls. Only 2 calls concerned about MERS which asked “the hospital management of suspected MERS” and “Screening for MERS at Suwannaphumi Airport.

Advice for MERS prevention – what is important to do today.

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).