

Update Report on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, Thailand (26 January 26, 2016)

Ministry of Public Health

1. Update on current situation 26 January 2016
 - 1.1 Confirmed MERS case is 1 case, 71 years old Omani. The number of confirmed case remains unchanged.
 - 1.2 Number of contacts classified as “high risk” is 40 persons, and 33 of this category are under close observation in designated area
 - 1.3 Global situation of MERS, by WHO report, is 1626 cases in 26 countries and with cumulative of 586 deaths
 - 1.4 To avoid mis-information and rumor, please only follow the official information released from Ministry of Public Health, Thailand. Inquiry can be made at all times (24 hrs) – call 1422.

2. Today, Ministry of Public Health locates 1 high risk contact, who was in the previous list, and keep for observation at Bamrassnaradura Institute

Dr. Amnuay Kajeena, Director General of the Department of Disease Control reaffirms that the confirmed MERS patient has no fever, remain in stable conditions, with mild cough, but still require oxygen support via nasal route. The patient is able to help himself with normal life activities, able to eat, and was in the isolation room.

Yesterday (January, 25th), the investigation team has located a high risk contact, who was in the previous list, agreed to receive close observation at Bamrassnaradura Institute. He is a foreign tourist.

Updates on the investigation and follow up of high risk contacts (40 total), which consisted of 22 passengers (4 Thai and 18 foreign tourists), 2 taxi drivers, 4 hotel

personnel, 11 hospital staffs and 1 accompanying relative. 33 contacts received close observation in designated hospitals, all remain no symptoms.

Other “low risk” contacts had been listing and followed by trained health officers. They will be put under 14 days plan of follow up and prompt screening if indicate. All are advised to avoid exposure to others and report to health officer of any abnormal symptoms until complete 14 days period.

3. Summary of Hot line services – 1422.

During the past 24 hours period (January, 25th), there were 44 calls to 1422 with 11 calls related to MERS. Most common inquiry were “Geographic Area of Infectious MERS”, “MERS detection and Surveillance”, basic knowledge of MERS, Symptoms and infectivity.

4. Advice of the day – how to stay safe from MERS.

1. Avoid exposure (close contact) to person who has respiratory symptoms, cough and fever.
2. Keep good sanitation and health practice. Always “eat hot and clean food”, “use proper utensil while eating in group” and regular hand washing.
3. Whenever you have fever, cough, sore throat, please try to avoid exposure to other to prevent spread of infection, wear mask, proper dispose waste and always keep clean.
4. Report your symptoms to health officer or doctor in your nearest area as soon as possible. Always inform the officer if you have been travelling to (or come from) other countries, in particular from Middle East and area of epidemic.