

Laboratory Testing Algorithm for MERS-CoV

For MERS-CoV testing authorization, the patient must meet the following **clinical** AND **exposure** criteria:

CLINICAL CRITERIA

Does the patient present with fever[†] AND pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome (based on clinical or radiological evidence)?

YES

NO

Does the patient meet ANY of the following EXPOSURE CRITERIA?*

ALTERNATE CLINICAL CRITERIA*

Does the patient have a history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula** within 14 days before symptom onset?

Was the patient in close contact[‡] with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula**?

Is the patient a member of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is evaluated, in consultation with a health department?

Does the patient present with a fever[†] AND symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia, e.g. cough, shortness of breath?)

YES

NO

Does the patient meet the following EXPOSURE CRITERIA?

Was the patient in a healthcare facility in a country or territory in or near the Arabian Peninsula** in which recent healthcare associated cases of MERS have been identified within 14 days before symptom onset?

Was the patient a close contact[‡] with a laboratory-confirmed MERS case while the case was ill?

Patient DOES NOT meet exposure criteria. No MERS testing authorized.

NO

YES

Patient DOES NOT meet exposure criteria. No MERS testing authorized.

YES

The patient meets both clinical AND exposure criteria. Immediately place a mask upon the patient and put the patient under standard, contact, and AIRBORNE isolation. Collect a lower respiratory specimen, a NP/OP swab, and a serum specimen from any case meeting testing criteria. **Call PDPH to report case and for testing authorizations at 215-685-6740.** After hours, call 215-686-4514 and ask for Division of Disease Control on-call staff.

*If uncertain of a patient's exposure, call PDPH for guidance.

**Countries considered in or neighboring the Arabian Peninsula include: Bahrain; Iraq; Iran; Israel; the West Bank and Gaza; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Syria; the United Arab Emirates (UAE); and Yemen.

[†]In some instances, atypical presentation of MERS-CoV may not include fever. Consult with PDPH on testing recommendations for any patient with respiratory symptoms who meet any of the exposure criteria.

[‡]Close contact is defined as a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) or within the room or care area for a prolonged period of time (e.g. healthcare personnel, household member) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment; or b) having direct contact with infectious secretions (e.g. being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.