

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 ↓

Does the patient meet ANY of the following EXPOSURE 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*?

Does the patient have a history of being in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker, or visitor) in the Republic of Korea within 14 days before symptom onset?

Was the patient a member of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness (e.g., fever and pneumonia requiring hospitalization) of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is being evaluated, in consultation with state and local health departments?

NO ↓

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

YES ↓

ALTERNATE CLINICAL CRITERIA **

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

YES ↓

Does the patient meet the following EXPOSURE CRITERIA?

Was the patient in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker, or visitor) within 14 days before symptom onset in a country or territory in or near the Arabian Peninsula in which recent healthcare-associated cases of MERS have been identified?

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

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 authorization at 215-685-6742. 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 the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring 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 members) 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.

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