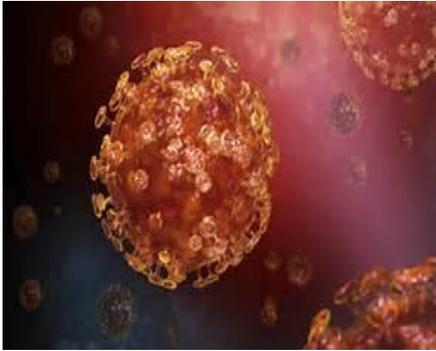


MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (MERS)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)?

MERS is a viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus (MERS-CoV).



What are the symptoms?

Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Diarrhea/Nausea
- Cough
- Pneumonia
- Shortness of Breath
- Kidney Failure

How does MERS spread?

We do not currently know all of the ways that MERS-CoV can be spread. However, some cases are spread from person to person through close contact, including caring for or living with a sick person. People with MERS have also infected others in healthcare settings.

Who is at risk of developing MERS?

People who have traveled to the Arabian Peninsula are most at risk for MERS. In addition, people with exposure to camels are also at increased risk.

How is MERS treated?

MERS can be diagnosed through the laboratory testing of blood and respiratory samples. There is no antiviral treatment for MERS. However, symptoms can be managed with supportive care.

What should I do if I think I have MERS?

If you develop a fever and respiratory illness symptoms, such as cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days of travel in countries in or around the Arabian Peninsula, or have had recent contact with an ill traveler from the Arabian Peninsula, you should contact a healthcare provider and mention your travel history and/or exposure.

How is MERS prevented?

There currently is no vaccine available against MERS-CoV. People can protect themselves from MERS and other respiratory illnesses through:

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Avoiding close contact, including kissing and sharing drinks or utensils, with ill persons
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, including doorknobs and toys

Resources

* For more information on MERS, please visit the following resource:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html>

For more information:

- Contact your doctor.
- Refer to <http://www.phila.gov/Health/>
- Contact the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Division of Disease Control at 215-685-6742.

