

DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY**

June 17, 2015

### **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome – Corona Virus (MERS-CoV)**

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[www.marincounty.org/hhs](http://www.marincounty.org/hhs)

Dear Colleagues:

#### **Situation**

As of 6/15/15, South Korea has reported a cumulative total of 150 confirmed MERS-CoV cases, an additional 120 persons under close evaluation, and 16 deaths. 47% (70 cases) are people who were receiving treatment in a hospital; 36% (54 cases) were among visitors to the hospital; and 17% (26 cases) were among hospital staff.

Saudi Arabia has to date reported a total of 1,033 laboratory confirmed cases, including 454 deaths in Saudi Arabia since June 2013.

New cases continue to occur in South Korea and the Arabian Peninsula. No cases have yet occurred in California.

#### **Actions Requested of Clinicians**

The purpose of this communication is to increase awareness on the part of providers to this emerging infection and request that they obtain a detailed travel history from patients ill with acute respiratory disease.

While it is most unlikely that we here in Marin or the Bay Area will see a case, please be sure to maintain awareness of the need to consider MERS-CoV infection in ill persons who

- a. Have recently traveled within fourteen days from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula or the Republic of Korea or have a history of being in a healthcare facility as a patient or worker or visitor within fourteen days before symptom onset, or
- b. Have a fever and pneumonia or symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia; e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and a history of being in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker or visitor) within fourteen days before symptom onset in South Korea or in a country or territory in or near the Arabian Peninsula in which recent healthcare associated cases of MERS have been identified, or
- c. Have a fever or symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia, e.g. cough, shortness of breath) and close contact with a confirmed MERS case while the case was ill.

#### **Infection Prevention and Control**

In healthcare settings, promptly institute airborne, contact and standard infection control precautions.

**Reporting**

Please report suspect MERS-CoV cases immediately to Marin County Communicable Disease Prevention and Control at Tel: 415-473-4163.

**Additional Information**

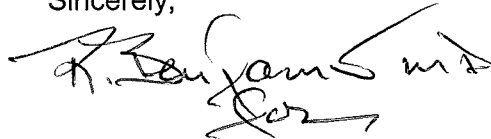
More information can be found at

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html>

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00380.asp>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Willis MD MPH". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Matthew D. Willis, MD, MPH  
Public Health Officer