

# 10 things you must know about MERS

[Source : Central MERS Relief Headquarters]

## Definition



The Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) is caused by the coronavirus. The first known case was in Saudi Arabia in 2012.

## Symptom



Symptoms can include fever, coughing and difficulties breathing. There can also be short breaths as well as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

## Vector of infection



Symptoms can begin to emerge within 2 to 14 days after infection. The disease is not contagious until the appearance of its symptoms.

## Transmission



Patients infected by the syndrome can possibly transfer the virus and cause an infection in others by coughing or sneezing within 2 meters of the person.

# 10 things you must know about MERS

The Ministry of Health & Welfare released on June 4 a list of ten things that people should know about the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

## Prevention



Wash your hands as often as possible. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and lips with unsanitized hands. When coughing, cover your nose and lips with a disposable tissue. Stay away from people who have a fever or who are coughing.

## Self-Quarantine



If you have had a close contact with MERS patients, you should get in touch with your public health care center, even if no symptoms have yet emerged. You may also wish to keep yourself away from your family or coworkers for as long as 14 days.

## Treatment



You need to receive medical treatment if you have either had contact with a MERS patient, recently visited the Middle East within the past 14 days or show any of the related symptoms.

## Diagnosis



MERS can be diagnosed by RT-PCR, a technique that identifies the gene from saliva or phlegm, or from lavage fluid tested for bronchus.

## Remedy



Patients will be given appropriate treatment depending on their symptoms. Those who need intensive care may need an artificial respirator and hemodialysis.

Those with no symptoms and no fever for 48 hours, or those who received negative results from their gene diagnosis twice per day can be discharged from the hospital.

## Equipment



A medical team must take care of sanitization and be equipped with disposable gowns, gloves, N95 masks and eye protectors.

## Complete survey on visitors of Pyeongtaek St. Mary's Hospital

(Source : Division of Disease Policy, Ministry of Health and Welfare ☎ 044-202-2505)

- As the number of MERS patients increases recently, the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Gyeonggi Provincial Government are planning to conduct a survey on everyone who visited the Pyeongtaek St. Mary's hospital where the largest number of MERS cases were reported. This is to identify people who were in close contact with MERS patients but has not been monitored.
- Therefore, **those who visited the Pyeongtaek St. Mary's Hospital from May 15th to 29th for any reasons** are requested to contact the Call Center operated by the Gyeonggi Province(Tel. 031-120) or the Ministry of Health and Welfare(Tel. 129). You can also contact through the Website of Ministry of Health and Welfare.
  - Those who visited the hospital besides the above-mentioned period or have no relation to the hospital are not required to contact the authorities.
- For those who contact will go through an interview to identify their health condition and history of hospital visit, etc.
  - In case there are suspected symptoms, a medical team will be dispatched to take the person to the temporary quarantine hospital where he or she gets medical examinations and be monitored
  - In case there is no symptom, the person will be directed to a self-quarantine for 14 days after the date of hospital visit. The quarantine will be lifted if there is no symptom during the period.
- Those who meet the criteria mentioned above are requested to report to the authorities in order to guarantee the safety of the family as well as him- or herself.
  - The general public is also requested to follow preventive measures including personal sanitation while refraining from worrying excessively which causes an unnecessary social turmoil.