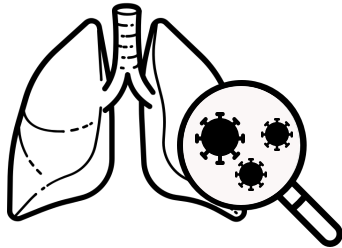


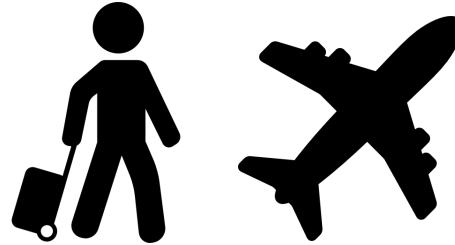


Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

Fact Sheet



Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a respiratory illness. It is caused by a coronavirus called MERS-CoV.



MERS cases are very rare in the United States. These cases are travel-associated, typically in people returning from the Arabian Peninsula.

Common Signs and Symptoms



Fever



Cough



Shortness of Breath

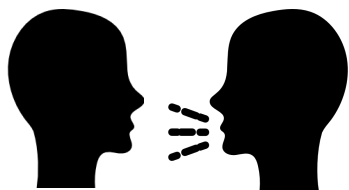
Most people also have diarrhea and nausea/vomiting. For many people with MERS, more severe complications can follow. This includes pneumonia and kidney failure. About 35 percent of people with MERS die, usually due to an underlying medical condition.

Symptoms usually begin five to six days after exposure, but can range from two to fourteen days. Some people have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all.



If you recently traveled in or near the Arabian Peninsula or cared for someone with MERS and have respiratory symptoms, talk with your doctor. There is no specific treatment for MERS.

Spread of MERS



MERS spreads person-to-person by breathing in an infected person's respiratory droplets. This can happen when an infected person coughs or sneezes.



MERS can also spread between people through close contact, like caring for an infected person.

The exact way the virus spreads to people is not clear. Several countries have documented cases in camels. It is possible that some people became infected after having close contact with camels.

Prevention of MERS



Wash your hands with soap and water



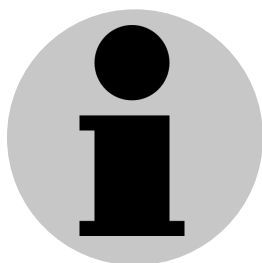
Cover your cough and sneeze



Clean frequently touched surfaces

There is currently no vaccine to protect against MERS. You should also avoid personal contact such as kissing, or sharing cups or eating utensils with sick people.

For More Information, Visit:



1. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/
2. www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en (For a list of countries with MERS cases)
3. www.who.int/health-topics/middle-east-respiratory-syndrome-coronavirus-mers

You can also call Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821.
