

# Managing MERS-CoV Presentations in WRHA Emergency Departments

MERS-CoV can spread human to human by droplet/contact exposure to infected individuals. Please maintain vigilance for MERS-CoV especially among symptomatic patients with links to affected areas.

## Signs and Symptoms

- Respiratory symptoms **AND**
- Fever (over 38 °C ) **AND**
- New onset of (or exacerbation of chronic) cough or breathing difficulty **AND**
- Clinical, radiological or histo-pathological evidence of pulmonary parenchymal disease (e.g. pneumonia, pneumonitis, or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome)
- Need for hospitalization (+/- Critical Care)
- Possible exposure during travel to areas of the world where there are known cases:
  - *Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait, Yemen, Lebanon, Iran and South Korea*
  - Cases linked to travel in the Middle East or South Korea have also been reported in several other countries: *France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Greece, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Malaysia, the Philippines, the United States, and China.*

**NOTE: clinician and public health judgment should be used in assessing patients with milder or atypical presentations, where, based on contact, comorbidity or cluster history, the index of suspicion may be raised**

## Process

*(Ensure masks and alcohol-based hand rub are available at triage)*

- Triage suspected patients as expeditiously as possible into a single room to reduce exposure to waiting room contacts
- Isolate any patient suspected of MERS-CoV using **Enhanced Droplet/Contact Precautions**
  - When aerosol-generating medical procedures are performed
    - i. HCW shall wear an N95 respirator and face/eye protection
    - ii. Whenever possible, perform in an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR)
- Report by phone any new suspect/probable/confirmed cases to the site Infection Control Professional/designate
- Consult Infectious Diseases to for clinical management
- Contact Cadham Provincial Laboratory physician on call to determine sample retrieval: during working hours: **204-787-2071**; after hours, weekends and stats: **204-945-6655**
- For internal or external transfers, advise the receiving facility/unit **IN ADVANCE** the patient is suspected of having MERS-CoV. Ensure patient is masked for the transfer
- Notify Manitoba Health Medical Officer of Health on call: **204-788-8666** of suspect case. During working hours, an administrative assistant will take your call and forward it onto the MOH on call.

## Additional Information on MERS-CoV:

Public Health Agency of Canada–MERS-CoV:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/eri-ire/coronavirus/index-eng.php>

Manitoba Health CDC MERS CoV Update for Health Professionals:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/docs/hcp/2013/052213.pdf>

Public Health Agency of Canada – Travel Health Advisory:

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/notices-avis/notices-avis-eng.php?id=108>

WHO Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus:

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus\\_infections/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/)