

# Managing MERS-CoV Presentations in WRHA Clinic Settings

MERS-CoV can spread human to human by droplet/contact exposure to infected individuals.  
Please maintain vigilance for MERS-CoV especially among susceptible patients.

## 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 and Lebanon.*  
Cases linked to travel in the Middle East have also been reported in several other countries:  
*France, Italy, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and most recently, in Egypt, Malaysia, Greece, the United States, the Philippines and the Netherlands.*

**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 clients as quickly as possible into a single room to reduce exposure to waiting room contacts
- Use **Droplet/Contact Precautions** when dealing with a client suspected of MERS-CoV - refer to Community Health Services Infection Prevention & Control Manual for details  
<http://www.wrha.mb.ca/extranet/ipc/files/manuals/community/4.1.2.pdf>
- If an aerosol-generating medical procedure (AGMP) is to be performed:
  - i. HCW shall wear an N95 respirator and face/eye protection
  - ii. Perform in a clinic room with the door closed.

### Examples of AGMPs:

- |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Emergent Intubation           | • Bronchoscopy                        |
| • Extubation                    | • Sputum induction                    |
| • Cardiopulmonary resuscitation | • Planned break in ventilator circuit |
| • Open tracheal suction         | • Autopsy                             |

- 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

## 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/hcp.html>

Public Health Agency of Canada – Travel Health Advisory:  
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/tmp-pmv/notices-avis/notices-avis-eng.php?id=108>