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Philippine Embassy in Riyadh

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Press Release

PR- 053 - 2014

Filipino Community in Saudi Arabia Urged to Heed Saudi Ministry of Health Guidance on MERS Coronavirus

(Riyadh, 15 April 2014) – The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh urges the Filipino community in Saudi Arabia to take necessary precautions and follow the guidance of the Saudi Ministry of Health (MOH) with regard to the Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

The Embassy continues to advise Filipino nationals in Saudi Arabia to remain calm and follow existing guidelines given by Saudi MOH (*as shown in the infographic below*), particularly on regular and thorough washing of hands, frequent use of hand sanitizers, and observing other general hygiene practices. Those who experience any of the disease's symptoms are urged to immediately seek medical attention.

If you have specific queries, the MOH Hotline can be reached at 800-249-4444.

On 9 April 2014, Saudi Health Minister Dr. Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Rabeeah stated that “the rate of incidence is still low, and doesn't represent an epidemic ... according to the criteria of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the relevant scientific committees.”

On 12 April 2014, the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi confirmed one Filipino worker died on April 10 due to MERS-CoV, while five other Filipinos who were infected remain in quarantine as a precaution but are recovering.

The WHO has identified the symptoms of MERS-CoV, which include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and even diarrhea. Human cases of MERS-CoV have also been reported in other Middle Eastern countries, such as Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates. **(END)**

THE NEW CORONA VIRUS

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome- Coronavirus (MERS-COV)

MANY PEOPLE WONDER ABOUT THE NEW CORONA VIRUS,

What is it?



Corona is a large group of viruses, which can infect both humans and animals with cold related diseases. The intensity of the infection ranges from common cold to acute respiratory syndrome.

However, the new strain of coronavirus, which causes MERS, is a novel virus to humans. So far, the information related to the disease, its signs, modes of transmission and even the sources of infection is very limited.

Ministry of Health, in cooperation with WHO and international experts, are working on finding out more about this virus.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE NEW CORONA VIRUS INFECTION?



In advanced cases, the patient can have very serious complications, which can lead to death, such as:



IS THERE A TREATMENT FOR THE NEW CORONA VIRUS?

There is no treatment until now. Supportive medical care is provided to help relieve the acuteness of the symptoms and control complications.



IS THERE A VACCINE FOR THE NEW CORONA VIRUS?



So far, there is no vaccine.

HOW THE NEW CORONA VIRUS DOES TRANSMIT BETWEEN PEOPLE?

It is believed that the New Corona Virus transmits like other Corona viruses and Flu, which transmits through:



WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE METHODS OF PROTECTION FROM THE NEW CORONA VIRUS?

- Maintain good hand hygiene by constantly washing hands with soap and cleaning them with hand sanitizers, especially after coughing, sneezing or using toilets, before handling or preparing food, and after contact with patients or their personal belongings.
- Avoid direct hand contact with eyes and nose as much as possible.
- Wear masks in the heavily crowded areas especially during Hajj or Umrah.
- Avoid as much as possible contact with patients and their personal tools, and use masks.
- When coughing or sneezing, use tissues to cover both mouth and nose. After that, dispose the used tissue in the trash can. Then wash your hands thoroughly and properly. When you sneeze and there are no tissues available, use the upper part of your arms to cover your mouth and nose and avoid using your hands.
- Maintain good hygiene habits in general.
- Wash vegetables and fruits very well before eating them.
- Keeping a good healthy diet and exercising along with other healthy habits, in addition to having enough sleep, will enhance the body's immunity system.

Do you have any inquiry . . ?

8002494444 www.moh.gov.sa/coronanew
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Ministry of Health