

本署檔號 Our Ref. : (13) in DH SEB CD/8/93/1 Pt.2

9 July, 2013

Dear Medical Superintendent,

Vigilance against Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

Further to our letter to you dated 14 June 2013, we would like to provide you with the latest situation on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

As of 8 July 2013, a total of 80 patients have been confirmed suffering from MERS worldwide, including 65 from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), three from the United Kingdom (UK), three from Italy, two from Qatar, two from Jordan, two from France, two from Tunisia and one from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Most patients are male (64%; 48 of 75 cases with sex reported) and aged from 2 to 94 years (median 50 years). Most patients presented with severe acute respiratory disease requiring hospitalization and eventually required mechanical ventilation or other advanced respiratory support. The latest case reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 7 July 2013 affected a female health care worker who had contacted with a confirmed case. To date, the case fatality rate is more than 50%.

Several incidents of human-to-human transmission occurred in health care settings and among the cases recorded so far, nine of them were health care workers. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you again to exercise stringent infection control measures while you are working. Your health care facility should also take appropriate infection prevention and control measures to decrease the risk of transmission of the virus to other patients, health care workers and visitors especially if it will provide care for patients suspected or confirmed with MERS-CoV infection.



You may wish to find our advice on infection control measures for MERS for health professionals at the following link:

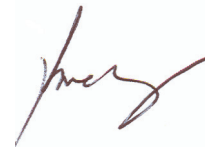
http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/interim_recommendations.pdf

So far, no human cases of MERS have been detected in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is keeping close watch over the latest development of the situation and will inform you of any further updates.

Medical practitioners are reminded to notify CHP any suspected cases of MERS fulfilling the reporting criteria to the Central Notification Office (CENO) of CHP via fax (2477 2770), phone (2477 2772) or CENO On-line (<http://ceno.chp.gov.hk/>). Please also call our Medical Control Officer at 7116 3300 a/c 9179 outside office hours for prompt investigation.

Thank you for your ongoing support in combating communicable diseases.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'SK CHUANG', written in a cursive style.

(Dr. SK CHUANG)
for Controller, Centre for Health Protection
Department of Health