監測及流行病學處



And Epidemiology Branch

Protecting Hong Kong's health

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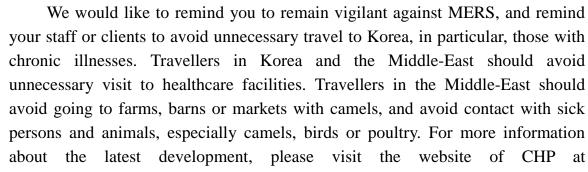
Dear Managers/ Infection Control Officers,

<u>Activation of Serious Response Level of Government's</u> Preparedness Plan for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

Further to our letter dated 1 June 2015, we would like to update you on the situation of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in Korea, and draw your attention to the activation of the Serious Response Level of Hong Kong Government's Preparedness Plan for MERS.

According to information from the relevant health authorities, a total of 86 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS have been identified in Korea so far (as of June 8). In addition, another case was exported from Korea to Mainland China. Among them, six fatal cases have been recorded.

In view of the increasing number of cases and the large number of persons potentially exposed to these cases, the frequent travel of people between Korea and Hong Kong and the dense population in Hong Kong, and the capacity of the local health care system, the Government decided to raise the response level under the Preparedness Plan for the MERS from Alert to Serious on 8 June. The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) has extended the reporting criteria of MERS to anyone who have travelled to the MERS affected areas including Middle East and Korea and present with fever or have unexplained clinical feature(s) of lower respiratory tract infection etc.





http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/26511.html. Please be reminded to take heed of personal, food and environmental hygiene:

- Do not consume raw or undercooked animal products, including milk and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled;
- Seek medical consultation immediately if feeling unwell;
- Avoid visits to health-care settings with MERS patients;
- Wash hands before touching the eyes, nose and mouth, and after sneezing, coughing or cleaning the nose; and
- Wash hands before eating or handling food, and after using the toilet.

You may wish to find further information on our advice on prevention of MERS in the following link:

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

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Chuang Shuk-kwan)

for Controller, Centre for Health Protection

Department of Health