

## **Guideline on Prevention of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome for Event Organiser of Mass Assembly**

The Department of Health advises event organiser of mass assembly to take the following precautionary measures to minimise the risk of contracting and spreading Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

### **Disease information**

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/healthtopics/content/24/26528.html>

### **Affected Areas**

Please refer to the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website for affected areas updates:

[http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/distribution\\_of\\_mers\\_cases\\_en.pdf](http://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/distribution_of_mers_cases_en.pdf)

### **I. Before the event**

#### **Provide relevant information to participants prior to the event**

- Provide relevant information such as MERS pamphlet to all participants through various channels e.g. email or website as necessary. MERS pamphlet can be downloaded from the CHP website:  
[https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/her/mers\\_pamphlet\\_eng.pdf](https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/her/mers_pamphlet_eng.pdf)
- Remind participants if they have resided in or travelled to an affected area in the past 14 days and have fever and/or respiratory symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, sore throat or muscle pain, put on a surgical mask and seek medical attention promptly. Do not attend the event.

### **II. During the event**

#### **Provide sufficient facilities**

- Post up hand hygiene, cough etiquette and MERS posters in conspicuous sites to alert the participants and provide relevant pamphlets. Relevant posters and pamphlets can be downloaded from the CHP website:  
<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/resources/464/26528.html>
- Provide adequate hand hygiene facilities, such as 70 to 80% alcohol-based handrub in public areas, especially at the reception counter and inside the venue of the event.
- Provide surgical masks to participant(s) if they have respiratory symptoms.

#### **Maintain environmental hygiene**

- Maintain good ventilation.
- Keep the environment clean. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, furniture, commonly shared items and floor at least once daily by using appropriate disinfectant. For non-metallic surface, disinfect with 1 in 99 diluted household bleach (mixing 10 ml of bleach containing 5.25% sodium hypochlorite with 990 ml

of water), wait until dry and then rinse with water. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.

- If places are contaminated by respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, use strong absorbent disposable towels to clean up the visible matter. Then disinfect the surface and the neighbouring area with appropriate disinfectant. For non-metallic surface, disinfect with 1 in 49 diluted household bleach (mixture of 10ml of household bleach containing 5.25% hypochlorite solution with 490ml of water), leave for 15 - 30 minutes, and then rinse with water. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.
- Keep toilets clean and dry.
- Provide liquid soap and disposable paper towels for washing hands.
- Ensure the flushing system of the toilet, and hand dryers are in proper function at all times.

#### **Provide isolation facilities at the venue**

- Provide a designated area and equipped with thermometer for handling sick participant(s).
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) including surgical mask, gown, gloves, eye protection (goggles/face shield) and cap (optional) should be provided to staff who will take care of sick participants or clean and disinfect the contaminated area(s).

#### **Care of sick participant(s) and/or accompanied person(s) with travel history to the affected areas**

- **Before seeking medical care**
  - Arrange the sick participant(s) and/or accompanied person(s) in the designated area and ask them to put on surgical masks.
  - Staff should minimise contact with sick participant(s) and/or accompanied person(s).
  - If staff needs to take care of the sick participant(s) and/or accompanied person(s), he/she should put on appropriate PPE.
  - Measure and record the temperature of the sick participant(s) and/or accompanied person(s) and keep the temperature record.
- **Seeking medical care**
  - Advise and assist sick participant(s) and/or accompanied person(s) to seek medical advice. Call 999 and inform the relevant staff about the condition of sick participant(s) and/or accompanied person(s) and their travel history, to arrange consultation in Accident and Emergency Department when necessary.
- **After care**

- After taking care of the sick participants and/or accompanied person, staff should remove PPE carefully and discard them in a lidded rubbish bin, and then perform hand hygiene.
- Cleansing staff should wear appropriate PPE including surgical mask, gown, gloves, eye protection (goggles/ face shield), and cap (optional). Upon completion of the cleansing, staff should remove the PPE carefully and discard them in a lidded rubbish bin, and then perform hand hygiene.
- If places are contaminated by respiratory secretions, vomitus or excreta, use strong absorbent disposable towels to clean up the visible matter. Then disinfect the surface and the neighbouring area with appropriate disinfectant. For non-metallic surface, disinfect with 1 in 49 diluted household bleach (mixture of 10ml of household bleach containing 5.25% hypochlorite solution with 490ml of water), leave for 15 - 30 minutes, and then rinse with water. For metallic surface, disinfect with 70% alcohol.
- Event organiser is advised to keep a list of participants (if feasible) and staff duty list, which include their personal particulars and contact information to facilitate contact tracing when necessary.

**For more information**

- Please visit the CHP thematic website at <https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/26511.html>

Centre for Health Protection

March 2018

(Last updated on 20 August 2019)