



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases

Consensus Summary on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome

(Updated on 8 October 2014)

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) emerged in 2012 to cause human infection. As of 8 October 2014, more than 800 cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) have been identified. So far, all cases either occurred in the Middle East or had direct links to primary cases infected in the Middle East. In the meeting on 8 October 2014, the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (the Committee) has reviewed the latest scientific findings and the epidemiological situation of MERS. The Committee noted that:

- People of all age groups were affected although males of middle and older ages were over-represented. The case fatality rate remained high at around 35%;
- There has been increasing scientific evidence suggesting camels as a likely primary source of human MERS-CoV infection. The currently observed pattern of disease appeared to be the result of repeated introductions of the virus from camels to people, resulting in limited human-to-human transmission (especially in households and health care settings), but not in sustained community transmission;
- The disease activity remained low currently but MERS-CoV transmission could be seasonal, with an upsurge expected in next spring;
- The risk of sporadic importation resulting in clusters of infections in Hong Kong exists, which may increase during mass pilgrimage.



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*The Centre for Health
Protection is a*

*professional arm of the
Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control*

2. To prevent and control the spread of MERS, the recommendations made by the Committee to the Centre for Health

Protection to work collaboratively with various stakeholders are:

- Continue to coordinate intensive surveillance for MERS;
- Strengthen health education for travellers to the Middle East;
- Maintain close liaison with WHO and international health authorities to monitor the latest development; and
- Health care facilities to maintain stringent infection control measures.

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