



भारत सरकार
राष्ट्रीय रोग नियंत्रण केन्द्र
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To

All State Surveillance Officers

Sub: Advisory to keep a vigil for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus (MERS-CoV)

MERS-CoV has emerged as international concern. Since April 2012, 536 laboratory-confirmed cases of human infection with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) have been reported to WHO, including 145 deaths. Most of the cases are reported from the middle-east countries and those outside middle east cases have a travel history to the Middle East.

All States need to enhance their surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) through Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and to carefully review any unusual patterns. Clinicians should be advised to consider the possibility of MERS-CoV infection in persons presenting with respiratory illness requiring hospitalization and an appropriate travel or exposure history. These cases should be urgently investigated (suggested format enclosed).

Any person who has had close contact with a patient under investigation/treatment for suspected, probable or confirmed case of MERS-CoV infection while the person was ill, should be carefully monitored for the appearance of respiratory symptoms. Further, health care facilities need to be reinforced the importance of appropriate hospital infection prevention and control practices.

Further it was decided in the Joint Monitoring Group for MERSCoV held under the chairmanship of DGHS that state should identify hospital/ ward for early detection and isolation of MERSCoV cases. Also, in districts where there are airports with air traffic from Saudi Arabia the RRT teams under IDSP should be kept vigilant so that they can undertake early case detection and contact tracing upon request from national agencies / airport authorities.

Facilities to test the samples are available at NIV, Pune and NCDC, Delhi. The following samples should be collected:

	MERS Coronavirus
Type of sample to be collected	Lower respiratory tract specimens
Transport Medium	No transport medium required for lower respiratory tract specimens. In case lower respiratory tract specimens are not available upper respiratory tract specimens can be collected in Viral Transport Media (VTM).
Storage & transportation of sample	Sample should be transported at 2-8 ⁰ C within 24 hours. If, there is a delay then samples should be stored in -70 ⁰ C.
Packaging	Triple layer packaging system

Detailed guidelines are available on the website of WHO (www.who.int).

NPO, IDSP

CC:

1. All Regional Directors, MoHFW
2. PS to Director, NCDC, Delhi -54
3. Dr. Shashi Khare, HoD Microbiology, NCDC, Delhi-54
4. Director Emergency Medical Relief (EMR), Nirman Bhawan, MoHFW, New Delhi
5. JS (AP), Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi