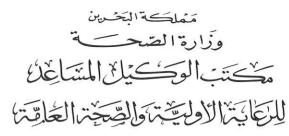
KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN MINISTRY OF HEALTH Office of Assistant Undersecretary for Primary Care & Public Health





Ref: PHD/DCS/CDU/C-12/2016

Date: 21 April, 2016

Reminder Circular

To: All Doctors, Nurses, and Pharmacists in Government and private hospitals and clinics.

Subject: Reporting Of Suspected Cases Of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus (MERS-CoV).

In view of the reporting cases of MERS-CoV in the region including the Kingdom of Bahrain ,you are kindly requested to notify any suspected case of MERS-CoV through Diseases Control Section hotline (**Tel:66399868**) and following the attached guideline for case definition and investigation.

Thanking you for your cooperation.

Dr. Waleed Khalifa Al Manea

Ag. Assistant undersecretary for

Primary Healthcare and Public Health

Case Definition And Laboratory Testing

A. Suspected case

Adults (> 14 years)

1. Acute respiratory illness with clinical and/or radiological, evidence of pulmonary parenchymal disease (pneumonia or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome).

AND

The person resides or travelled within 2 weeks to countries where MERS-CoV is known to be circulating in dromedary camels or where human infections have recently occurred.

- 2. Upper or lower respiratory illness within 2 weeks after exposure to a confirmed or probable case of MERS-CoV infection.
- 3. Unexplained acute febrile (≥38°C) illness, AND body aches, headache, diarrhea, or nausea/vomiting, with or without respiratory symptoms, AND leucopenia (WBC<3.5x109/L) and thrombocytopenia (platelets<150x109/L)

AND

The person resides or travelled within 2 weeks to countries where MERS-CoV is known to be circulating in dromedary camels or where human infections have recently occurred

Pediatrics (≤ 14 years)

- 1. Meets the above case definitions and has at least one of the following:
 - a. History of exposure to a confirmed or suspected MERS CoV in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms
 - b. History of contact with camels or camel products in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms
- 2. Unexplained severe pneumonia

B. Probable case

A probable case is a patient in category (1)above (Adults and pediatrics) with inconclusive laboratory results for MERS-CoV

C. Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of MERS-CoV infection.

Cases eligible for MERS-CoV sample collection:

- Cases that fit case definition
- The case should be discussed and notified through communicable diseases hotline Tel:66399868

Recommended samples:

- The preferred sample is deep tracheal aspirate (DTA) but nasopharyngeal swab can be collected if DTA is not possible.

Transportation of sample

- Transfer the sample into a Viral Transport Medium (VTM)
- Transport the Sample to Public Health Laboratory in COLD Chain (4°C) before 9:00 AM. If a delay in transferring samples of > 48 hours consider freezing and shipping with dry ice.
- Follow infection control measures during sample collection and transportation The reporting physician should fill in the Laboratory Request Form