

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.177\_ MERS

### (16 - 22 September 2018)

From the national disease surveillance system, the Department of Disease Control reveals that Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) cases continue to occur in the Middle East countries. Occasionally, some countries in Asia also reported imported cases. Currently, there is no MERS imported case in Thailand. However, Thailand is still at risk of MERS as there are a lot of people travelling from and to the Middle East for pilgrimage, business, and tourism purposes. Therefore, surveillance, prevention and control measures are enhanced to rapidly detect any imported case and effectively prevent its spread.



According to this week disease forecast, the risk of having imported MERS patients is considerably low. However, strengthened measures are in place at all three levels: international disease control unit at point of entry, hospitals, and communities. Measures include close monitoring of MERS situation, health education and risk communication for pilgrims and health screening upon returning to the country.

The Department of Disease Control advises all individuals returning from the Middle east countries, especially the elderly and people with underlying diseases such as diabetes, chronic lung or kidney diseases, or people with low immunity, to observe their health. If having symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat or difficult breathing, a visit to the hospital is crucial. The history of travelling to risk areas should be informed to the attending doctors. Health care personnel working at the international medical hubs should be aware of MERS symptoms and the history of travelling to risk areas according to the clinical practice guideline and the surveillance and control guideline.

For queries or additional information, please call DDC hotline 1422.



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