

# Department of Disease Control

## Weekly Disease Forecast No.43\_ MERS-CoV (1-7 February 2016)

From the national disease surveillance system, Thailand had 2 cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in travelers from Omand. The first case was detected in June 2015 and the second case in January 2016.

MERS-CoV patients usually have flu-like illness including fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat. Severe symptoms are shortness of breath, pneumonia and respiratory failure that might result in death.

The potential risk factors are traveling to the Middle East countries with occurrence of MERS-CoV, having contact with camels, drinking camel milk, and close contact with MERS-CoV patients. Incubation period of the disease before onset of symptoms is around 14 days.



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According to this week disease forecast, Thailand has continued risk of importation of the disease from countries where it still persists. There is a need to further enhance surveillance and step up prevention and control procedures to rapidly detect any imported case and effectively prevent its spread.

The Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health, advises all individuals to practice hygiene behavior, i.e. “eat freshly-cooked and clean food, use serving spoon and wash hands often”. It is wise to avoid unnecessary visit to risk areas and close contact to patients with cough or sneezing.

It is crucial that health-care facilities strengthen surveillance and infection control to rapidly detect and report any suspected case to the Department of Disease Control for prompt response. All travelers to risk areas and village health volunteers are advised to promptly report any patients with MERS-CoV symptoms.

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



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