



Adi M. Pour, Ph.D.
Health Director
(402) 444-7471

May 20, 2014

Administration & Finance
(402) 444-7216

To: Douglas County Healthcare Providers

Emergency Preparedness
(402) 444-7213

From: Adi M. Pour, Ph.D., Health Director

Communicable Disease
Epidemiology
(402) 444-7214

Re: Updated Guidance on Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV)

Two patients traveling from Saudi Arabia to the United States have been diagnosed with MERS-CoV and a close contact to one of the two patients has tested positive for antibodies to MERS-CoV.

Food and Drink
(402) 444-7480

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a viral respiratory illness that was first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012. It is caused by a coronavirus called MERS-CoV. Most people with MERS-CoV infection developed severe acute respiratory illness, including; fever, cough, and shortness of breath. About 30% of those infected have died.

Health Promotion
(402) 444-7475

Lead Poisoning
Prevention Program
(402) 444-7825

Healthcare providers in the United States should remain vigilant to the possibility of this infection in patients who present with fever, cough, pneumonia, and have history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula within 14 days before symptom onset.

Public Health Clinic &
Immunizations
(402) 444-6163

If you have a patient that meets the guidelines for MERS-CoV Evaluation:
<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/interim-guidance.html>

STD Control
(402) 444-7750

- Contact the Douglas County Health Department **IMMEDIATELY** at 402.444.7214 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 4:30 pm) or after hours at 402.444.7000. Please be able to provide the following; patient name, date of birth, residence, travel history, symptoms, and a list of known close contacts.

Sanitation Control
(402) 444-7481

- Initiate appropriate infection control measures, including standard, contact, and airborne precautions (including eye protection), while managing symptomatic contacts and patients who are under investigation. For more information regarding infection control, please see <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html> .

Sanitary Engineering
(402) 444-7485

- Specimens should be collected according to CDC guidelines:
<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html> .

WIC
(402) 444-1770

- With **public health approval** laboratory diagnostics for MERS-CoV are available at the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory.

Civic Center Location
1819 Farnam Street, H01

Health Data
(402) 546-0847

Vital Statistics
(402) 444-7205

For more information, see last week's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR):
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6319a4.htm?s_cid=mm6319a4_w

Health Center Location
4102 Woolworth Av.

Laboratory Services
(402) 444-7496

CDC's travel notice has been upgraded to a Level 2 Alert, which includes enhanced precautions for travelers to countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula who plan to work in health-care settings. For more information regarding travel, please see <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-arabian-peninsula-uk> .