

Real-time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) testing applied to respiratory secretions is the diagnostic assay of choice. Ideally, lower respiratory tract, upper respiratory tract, and serum samples should be obtained. Lower respiratory tract specimens should be a priority for collection and testing. To increase the likelihood of detecting MERS-CoV, we suggest collection of multiple specimens from different sites and at different times.

Individuals with an acute respiratory infection who have an epidemiologic link to MERS-CoV or who have had an unusual or unexpected clinical course (especially sudden deterioration despite appropriate treatment) should be tested for MERS-CoV. Certain other patients may also require evaluation for MERS-CoV infection. Specific recommendations regarding whom to test are presented above.

There is currently no treatment recommended for coronavirus infections except for supportive care as needed.

An increased level of infection control precautions is recommended when caring for patients with probable or confirmed MERS-CoV infection compared with that used for patients with community-acquired coronaviruses or other community-acquired respiratory viruses. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the use of standard, contact, and airborne precautions for the management of hospitalized patients with known or suspected MERS-CoV infection. (See 'Infection control' above.)

There is no licensed vaccine for MERS-CoV.

The World Health Organization (WHO) does not recommend either special screening for MERS-CoV at points of entry or the application of any travel or trade restrictions. The Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia recommended that, in 2014, older adults, those with chronic diseases, immunocompromised patients, pregnant women, and children postpone their plans to travel to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for Hajj and/or Umrah.

References

- [1]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East_respiratory_syndrome_coronavirus
- [2]. <http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/CCC/PressReleases/Pages/default.aspx>
- [3]. <http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/CCC/informationcenter/pages/healthguidelines4.aspx>
- [4]. <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/about/transmission.html>
- [5]. <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html>
- [6]. <http://www.thelancet.com/action/showFullTextImages?pii=S0140-6736%2815%2960454-8>
- [7]. <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/faq.html>
- [8]. <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/about/symptoms.html>
- [9]. http://www.uptodate.com/contents/image?imageKey=ID/90331&topicKey=ID/89705&source=outline_link&search=&utdPopup=true
- [10]. http://www.uptodate.com/contents/image?imageKey=ID/90331&topicKey=ID/89705&source=outline_link&search=&utdPopup=true
- [11]. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East_respiratory_syndrome#Treatment