

Current Event

Global compliance to IPC Measures for MERS-CoV

Ministry of Health (MoH) expands the composition of review process and Rapid Response Teams (RRT) to include non-MoH health sectors.

Editorial Notes

Controlling and preventing infectious diseases in healthcare facilities (HCFs) such as Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), rely substantially on the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures. Systematic IPC reviews and auditing process covers all health care settings across the kingdom and follows a scheduled timetable throughout the year. This process has shown improvement throughout the hospitals that was implemented in, and also resulted in fewer and smaller MERS-CoV's related hospital outbreaks. So far, this process is solely conducted by the MoH. Resistance to cooperate with the ministry's staff either during the routine reviews or the RRT visits at the time of outbreaks, stems partially from inadequate and improper engagement of key stakeholders.

Late 2015, a mutual agreement was achieved with all governmental healthcare sectors to unify efforts and work together to fight MERS-CoV and prevent hospital outbreaks. MoH started a process to involve other stakeholders to share the responsibility in order to foster further collaboration of non-MoH institutions especially during the RRT visits. This process is expected to build more trust and increase cooperation and transparency, leading to better outcomes. MoH organized a training module on RRT, reviews and audits attended by non-MoH stakeholders. The training started early January 2016. The training includes standards and protocols of

Table 1: Ranking of Overall Compliance to Infection Control Measures by Regional Directorate(≥ 200 beds)

Regional Directorate	CBAHI	#	GDIPC-1	#	GDIPC-2	#	GDIPC-3	#
Najran	65.03%	2	86.63%	2	86.96%	2	98.09%	2
Taif	50.88%	3	90.95%	2	96.26%	2	98.01%	2
Madina	46.84%	7	40.84%	6	78.14%	7	96.59%	6
Asir	48.01%	1	86.46%	5	80.94%	4	95.93%	2
Makkah	50.72%	4	81.40%	5	91.07%	4	94.82%	5
Jouf	62.62%	3	74.53%	3	87.26%	3	93.08%	3
Tabuk	50.50%	2	84.39%	2	90.67%	3	92.19%	2
Jazan	91.56%	1	84.72%	1	89.20%	1	91.53%	1
Hail	79.49%	2	48.59%	2	76.20%	2	88.62%	2
Baha	10.88%	2	69.44%	2	75.91%	2	88.62%	2
Bisha	59.47%	1	58.97%	1	84.72%	1	86.38%	1
Qassim	73.22%	4	68.11%	5	85.51%	5	84.66%	3
North border	88.21%	2	70.18%	2	78.07%	2	83.06%	2
Jeddah	53.71%	7	69.82%	10	79.63%	8	82.24%	9
Eastern	73.59%	5	65.28%	5	76.72%	5	82.10%	4
Hassa	53.69%	5	74.43%	5	79.72%	5	81.83%	5
Riyadh	46.18%	8	56.90%	7	64.19%	6	78.43%	6
Hafr Albatin	66.94%	2	65.37%	2	60.80%	3	77.19%	3
Alqurayyat	47.67%	1	28.41%	1	63.12%	1	pending	

Cases of MERS-CoV: International Week (IW) No. 4: 24 - 30 Jan 2016

Total	3
Symptomatic (S)	1
Asymptomatic (AS)	2
Healthcare worker (S)	0
Healthcare Worker (AS)	0

the existing programs to maintain the processes' framework within a standardized system.

To date, more than 600 visits were done by RRT teams mostly to MoH healthcare facilities. In the most recent cycle of review process about 250 hospitals have been audited (Table 1). However, the new collaborative process and partnership with other non-MoH health sectors will improve performance and increase coverage.

This process is concordant with the newly released royal decree that clearly stated that MoH is the primary responsible authority in the kingdom for the health of people in Saudi Arabia regardless to healthcare providers; especially, during occurrence of epidemic-prone diseases.

Proper implementation of IPC measures has significantly reduced the number of secondary cases. Since the beginning of 2016 no secondary cases have been reported.

Recent Publications:

Korean Society of Infectious Diseases, and Korean Society for Healthcare-associated Infection Control and Prevention. The Same Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) yet Different Outbreak Patterns and Public Health Impacts on the Far East Expert Opinion from the Rapid Response Team of the Republic of Korea. Infect Chemother. 2015 Dec;47(4):247-51. doi: 10.3947/ic.2015.47.4.247. Epub 2015 Dec 30.

MERS-CoV in KSA 2016*

Region	Case	Primary	Secondary	U.C.
Riyadh (1)	1	1	0	0
Al-Ahsaa	0	0	0	0
Eastern Region	0	0	0	0
Jeddah (2)	3	3	0	0
Qassim	1	1	0	0
Najran	0	0	0	0
Taif	0	0	0	0
Madinah	1	1	0	0
Asir	0	0	0	0
Tabuk	0	0	0	0
Makkah	0	0	0	0
Hail	0	0	0	0
Al-Joaf	0	0	0	0
Jazan	0	0	0	0
Northern Borders	0	0	0	0
Qunfotha	0	0	0	0
Al-Baha	0	0	0	0
Bisha	1	1	0	0
Hafr Al-Batin	0	0	0	0
Qurayyat	0	0	0	0
Total	7	7	0	0

Case: Confirmed Symptomatic. U.C.: Unclassified cases
*Period: Form 3 Jan to 30 Jan 2016
Regions with new cases of this week are highlighted in yellow.

