

## Current Event

### A joint MoH-WHO Training on MERS

Ministry of Health (MoH) in collaboration with WHO organized a training on the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) on 24 Jan-4 Feb 2016.

## Editorial Notes

The Saudi Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) and the General Directorate of Control of Infectious Diseases, MoH in collaboration with the World Health Organization, Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO) organized a 5-day training module on "Epidemiological Surveillance of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome due to Coronavirus (MERS)". The course focused on public health rather than clinical medicine orientation.

The course aimed at equipping participants with knowledge, conceptual frameworks and tools necessary to strengthen field activities related to MERS. Specifically, the course emphasized use of basic epidemiology, interventions and MoH guidelines for responding to MERS outbreaks for investigation and response. Participants were trained on steps necessary for field investigation of emerging MERS cases, with emphasis on extracting sound and effective epidemiological data; and how to conduct simple analyses and presentation of collected data using spreadsheets and graphs. Figure one summarizes the course content.

Investing in training of health care workers (HCW) is essential for achieving a functional surveillance and response system for MERS, promoting public health and ensuring growing professional development of HCWs. There is continuous need to develop capacities at different levels of MoH sectors to ensure timely, accurate and

## Figure 1: Course Contents

1	Epidemiology of MERS-CoV: What is known and what is not known
2	MoH guidelines for responding to MERS-CoV outbreaks.
3	MoH policy & procedures for reporting MERS-CoV cases.
4	Review notification, reporting and case investigation forms.
5	Guidance on steps of field epidemiological investigation.
6	HESN forms and screens related to MERS-CoV.
7	Basic epidemiological data analysis and report generation.
8	Management of field work.
9	Specimen's management; collection, storing dispatching and follow results with lab.
10	Institution of prevention and control measures.
11	Risk communication.
12	Contact's follow-up and contacts health education

### Cases of MERS-CoV: International Week (IW) No. 5: 31 Jan - 6 Feb 2016

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

complete reporting of epidemiological data on emerging suspected and confirmed cases of MERS. The course has been attended by 20 public health practitioners from five different regions, where MERS continued to occur. For every newly diagnosed case of MERS, MoH collects complete data at households and exposed persons as well as relevant biological specimens.

The training provided an excellent platform for participants to exchange their own experiences, challenges and lessons learned during outbreak investigations in their respective regions. The expected outcomes of the training include, but not limited to, building up a rapid response team, ensuring better quality of surveillance reports, case and outbreak investigations with accuracy based on timely, complete and factual data, good support during field outbreak investigations, and professional development of HCWs. MoH is considering expanding the course in other regions.

## Recent Publications:

Khalid I, Khalid TJ, Qabajah MR, Barnard AG, Qushmaq IA. Healthcare Workers Emotions, Perceived Stressors and Coping Strategies During MERS-CoV Outbreak. Clin Med Res. 2016 Feb 4. pii: cmr.2016.1303.

## MERS-CoV in KSA 2016\*

Region	Case	Primary	Secondary	U.C.
Riyadh (1)	2	1	0	1
Al-Ahsaa	0	0	0	0
Eastern Region	0	0	0	0
Jeddah	3	3	0	0
Qassim	1	1	0	0
Najran	0	0	0	0
Taif (1)	1	1	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
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

Case: Confirmed Symptomatic. U.C. : Unclassified cases

\*Period: Form 3 Jan to 9 Feb 2016

Regions with new cases of this week are highlighted in yellow.