

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Case Definition

Patient Under Investigation (PUI)

A patient under investigation (PUI) is a person with the following characteristics:

- A. Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$, 100.4°F) and pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome (based on clinical or radiological evidence) AND EITHER:
 - o a history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula¹ within 14 days before symptom onset, OR
 - o close contact² with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula¹ OR
 - o a member of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness (e.g. fever and pneumonia requiring hospitalization) of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is being evaluated, in consultation with state and local health departments; OR

- B. Fever AND symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia; e.g. cough, shortness of breath) AND being in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker, or visitor) within 14 days before symptom onset in a country or territory in or near the Arabian Peninsula in which recent healthcare-associated cases of MERS have been identified; OR

- C. Fever OR symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia; e.g. cough, shortness of breath) AND close contact² with a confirmed MERS case while the case was ill.

Confirmed Case

A confirmed case is a person with laboratory confirmation of MERS-CoV infection. Confirmatory laboratory testing requires a positive PCR on at least two specific genomic targets or a single positive target with sequencing on a second.

Probable Case

A probable case is a PUI with absent or inconclusive laboratory results for MERS-CoV infection who is a close contact² of a laboratory-confirmed MERS-CoV case. Examples of laboratory results that may be considered inconclusive include a positive test on a single PCR target, a positive test with an assay that has limited performance data available, or a negative test on an inadequate specimen.

Footnotes

1. Countries considered in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring include: Bahrain; Iraq; Iran; Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Syria; the United Arab Emirates (UAE); and Yemen.
2. Close contact is defined as: a) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) or within the room or care area for a prolonged period of time (e.g., healthcare personnel, household members) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment (i.e., gowns, gloves, respirator, eye protection— see [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html)(<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html>); or b) having direct contact with infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment (i.e., gowns, gloves, respirator, eye protection – see [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html)(<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html>). Data to inform the definition of close contact are limited. At this time, brief interactions, such as walking by a person, are considered low risk and do not constitute close contact.