Genesee County Health Department
Your Health. Our Work.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

www.GCHD.us

What is MERS?
- A viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus called "Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV). It is not the same coronavirus that caused severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)

What are symptoms that could occur?
- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Diarrhea, some cases

How is it spread?
- Close person-to-person contact with an infected person
- Spread through tiny drops of fluid from the nose and throat of infected people
- Very low risk of infection to general public of the United States

How is it diagnosed?
- Primary care physician evaluation and laboratory tests

How can MERS be prevented?
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into a sleeve or other absorbent material
- Avoid close contact with large numbers of people
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, handrails, and toys.

Is there any travel restriction related to MERS?
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) issue travel advisories or travel alerts as needed. Check their websites for current advisories or alerts.

Whom should be notified of a case of MERS?
- Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017 should be notified IMMEDIATELY

When can the individual return to the general population?
- Following recommendation of the individual's physician

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?
- Call the Genesee County Health Department, 257-1017