



May 7, 2014

Dear Colleague:

On May 2, 2014, CDC announced the first case of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) in the United States. CDC is working closely with EMS and other vital partners at U.S. international ports of entry to enhance awareness and surveillance of MERS. This is an evolving situation and information may change quickly. With this letter, CDC is sharing information and providing details on how EMS can help.

CDC requests your assistance in sharing with EMS units at international ports of entry the attached quarantine station chart and *CDC update: Response to Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) for EMS at International Ports of Entry*.

- We request EMS support to look for travelers arriving from countries in and near the Arabian Peninsula who are ill with fever **plus** cough or difficulty breathing and to contact their CDC Quarantine Station 24/7.

CDC also requests assistance in providing information for ill travelers. CDC has created an information card (*Information for Ill Travelers-MERS* in English and Arabic) for these ill travelers. This card alerts ill travelers from affected regions to call a doctor, mention where they traveled, and get tested for MERS.

- When EMS calls the CDC Quarantine Station, CDC will advise EMS staff whether to give the information card to the ill traveler (See station chart on page 3).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the CDC Quarantine Station in your jurisdiction at www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html

Thank you for your outstanding support and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "NP", written over a horizontal line.

Nicki Pesik, MD
Chief, Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2 Encls: CDC update and quarantine station chart

CDC Update: Response to Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) for EMS at International Ports of Entry

The outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is evolving. With this update, CDC is sharing information and providing details on how EMS can help. MERS coronavirus originated in countries of the Arabian Peninsula in 2012. The first imported U.S. case of MERS was confirmed on May 2, 2014.

About MERS

- MERS is a severe, contagious respiratory illness that can cause death but is NOT very common. It has NOT spread easily from person to person. At this time, the risk of getting MERS from someone who has it is low.
- Most person-to-person spread has occurred in health care workers and other close contacts (such as family members and caregivers) of people sick with MERS.
- People with weakened immune systems have been at greater risk for severe illness.
- There is no vaccine available for MERS.
- **Symptoms of MERS include fever plus cough or difficulty breathing.**

What you can do now

Be especially vigilant for ill travelers with possible MERS symptoms who arrive from or near the Arabian Peninsula. This includes Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Contact your CDC Quarantine Station

Find contact information for your quarantine station on your EMS card and sticker. You can also find your regional CDC Quarantine Station at: www.cdc.gov/quarantine/QuarantineStationContactListFull.html

- Call your CDC Quarantine Station 24/7 to report any sick travelers with signs and symptoms mentioned above.
- If CDC advises, give them the *Information for Ill Travelers-MERS* card. (See quarantine station chart on page 3.)
- Encourage the ill travelers to call a doctor, mention they traveled, and get tested for MERS.

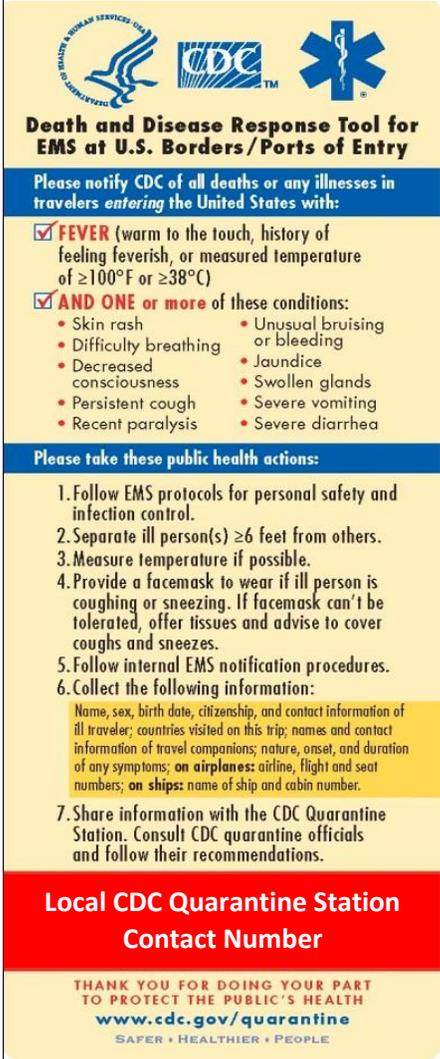
Follow actions on EMS card/sticker

- Follow actions on CDC's EMS card/sticker (shown right) when assessing ill travelers and use EMS protocols for personal safety and infection control.
- Please continue to look for other travelers who may be sick with symptoms listed on the EMS card and sticker.
These are distributed by CDC Quarantine Stations with jurisdiction for your port; see link above.

For updated MERS information

This is a rapidly evolving situation, and information may change quickly.

- CDC updates: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/index.html
- CDC travelers' health updates: www.cdc.gov/travel
- World Health Organization (WHO) information updates: www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/index.html



The image shows a poster titled "Death and Disease Response Tool for EMS at U.S. Borders/Ports of Entry". It features logos for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the CDC, and the EMS Star of Life. The poster is divided into several sections: a blue header with the title, a blue box with the instruction "Please notify CDC of all deaths or any illnesses in travelers entering the United States with:", a yellow box with a checklist of symptoms (fever and one or more of: skin rash, difficulty breathing, decreased consciousness, recent paralysis, unusual bruising or bleeding, jaundice, swollen glands, severe vomiting, severe diarrhea), another blue box with "Please take these public health actions:", a yellow box with a numbered list of actions (follow EMS protocols, separate ill persons, measure temperature, provide facemask, follow notification procedures, collect information, share information), a red box with "Local CDC Quarantine Station Contact Number", and a footer with "THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH" and the CDC website.

Death and Disease Response Tool for EMS at U.S. Borders/Ports of Entry

Please notify CDC of all deaths or any illnesses in travelers entering the United States with:

- FEVER** (warm to the touch, history of feeling feverish, or measured temperature of $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ or $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$)
- AND ONE or more** of these conditions:
 - Skin rash
 - Unusual bruising or bleeding
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Jaundice
 - Decreased consciousness
 - Swollen glands
 - Persistent cough
 - Severe vomiting
 - Recent paralysis
 - Severe diarrhea

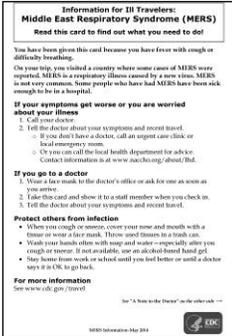
Please take these public health actions:

1. Follow EMS protocols for personal safety and infection control.
2. Separate ill person(s) ≥ 6 feet from others.
3. Measure temperature if possible.
4. Provide a facemask to wear if ill person is coughing or sneezing. If facemask can't be tolerated, offer tissues and advise to cover coughs and sneezes.
5. Follow internal EMS notification procedures.
6. Collect the following information:
Name, sex, birth date, citizenship, and contact information of ill traveler; countries visited on this trip; names and contact information of travel companions; nature, onset, and duration of any symptoms; **on airplanes:** airline, flight and seat numbers; **on ships:** name of ship and cabin number.
7. Share information with the CDC Quarantine Station. Consult CDC quarantine officials and follow their recommendations.

Local CDC Quarantine Station Contact Number

THANK YOU FOR DOING YOUR PART TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH
www.cdc.gov/quarantine
SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE

CDC Quarantine Station Chart Information for Ill Travelers Card



CDC staff at our 18 quarantine stations will give the *Information for Ill Travelers-MERS* cards (image shown left) to co-located EMS staff. The information cards are printed in both English and Arabic. We will send the cards after they are printed to EMS at the 8 ports listed below where quarantine station staff are not located.

Thank you for your help.

CDC Quarantine Station locations (CDC staff will give <i>Information for Ill Travelers-MERS</i> card to co-located EMS.)	Ports where CDC needs additional EMS assistance (Corresponding QS is on left column. CDC will send <i>Information for Ill Travelers-MERS</i> card directly to EMS stations below.)
Anchorage	
Atlanta	Charlotte, NC
Chicago	
Detroit	
El Paso	
Honolulu	
Houston	Dallas
Los Angeles	Denver and Las Vegas
Miami	Orlando
Minneapolis	
New York (JFK)	Boston and NY-LaGuardia
Newark	
Philadelphia	
San Diego	
San Francisco	
San Juan	
Seattle	
Washington, D.C.	Baltimore