

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

Haj Pilgrimage 2013

Advisory for Airlines on MERS-CoV infection
(Formerly called “novel coronavirus”)

Brief on MERS - CoV:

WHO has reported 96 confirmed cases of Middle East Corona virus (MERS-CoV) and 47 deaths in 9 countries since the outbreak was first reported in April, 2012. Most people infected with MERS-CoV had severe illness and pneumonia, with around 50% mortality. The virus can spread from person to person through close contact, so pilgrims living and travelling in close quarters may be at risk, even though the risk is considered very low. However, the disease has High mortality and there is no available vaccine or specific treatment for illness. World Health Organization has issued interim travel advice on MERS-CoV for pilgrimages to Saudi Arabia.

As a matter of precaution, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India has issued guidance for the Haj pilgrims and visitors to the Saudi Arabia. Following measures are recommended for airlines (including chartered) involved in operation of direct flights (including transportation of Haj pilgrims) to and from Saudi Arabia:

1. In flight announcement as below:

“In view of the current Threat of newly emerged viral infection by MERS-CoV, which has high mortality and is currently reported in Saudi Arabia, all HAJ pilgrims or travellers, who have any fever, cough, respiratory discomfort or distress should report at the immigration or medical unit on arrival. This is important for early diagnosis for prompt management and preventing spread.”

2. All airlines should keep a stock of triple layer masks (25 Nos.) hand sanitizer and disposal bags: these are to be used for any passenger reporting with symptoms of MERS-CoV and co-passengers who are likely to have contact.

3. Assist the staff of Health unit at the airport during disembarkation for contact tracing of travellers identified as suspect (who develop fever and/or lower respiratory symptoms).
4. Follow proper aircraft defection procedures (as recommended by WHO/ICAO)

2013/08/02

F

HEALTH ALERT

HEALTH ALERT

HEALTH ALERT

ALL THE TRAVELRS WHO HAVE VISITED OR TRANSITED FROM:

SAUDI ARABIA, FRANCE, ITALY, JORDEN, QATAR, TUNISIA, UK, UAE

AND ARE SUFFERING FROM:

COUGH, FEVER AND OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH

OR

HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A PERSON SUFFERING FROM SUCH ILLNESS

SHOULD REPORT TO AIRPORT HEALTH OFFICER FOR BASIC CHECK-UP

ADVISORY:

ANY TRAVELR WHO AFTER VISITING ABOVE COUNTRIES DEVELOPS ABOVE MENTIONED SYMPTOMS WITHIN 14 DAYS OF ARRIVAL IN INDIA-

THEY SHOULD VISIT NEAREST HOSPITAL FACILITY