



Case Definitions

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:
 - a history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula¹ within 14 days before symptom onset, OR
 - 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
 - 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. Close contact² with a confirmed or probable case of MERS while the case was ill AND
 - fever ($>100^{\circ}\text{F}$) or symptoms of respiratory illness within 14 days following the close contact. (This is a lower threshold than category A.)

PUIs should be evaluated in consultation with the state and local health departments. For more information, see CDC's [Interim Guidance for Health Professionals \(/coronavirus/MERS/interim-guidance.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/interim-guidance.html).

Confirmed Case

A confirmed case is a person with laboratory confirmation³ of MERS-CoV infection.

Probable Case

A probable case is a PUI with absent or inconclusive⁴ laboratory results for MERS-CoV infection who is a close contact² of a laboratory-confirmed MERS-CoV case.

Footnotes

1. Countries considered in or near the Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestinian territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Yemen.
2. Close contact is defined as a) any person who provided care for the patient, including a healthcare worker or family member, or had similarly close physical contact; or b) any person who stayed at the same place (e.g. lived with, visited) as the patient while the patient was ill.
3. Confirmatory laboratory testing requires a positive PCR on at least two specific genomic targets or a single positive target with sequencing on a second.
4. 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.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1600 Clifton Rd. Atlanta, GA 30333, USA
800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) TTY: (888) 232-6348 - [Contact CDC-INFO](#)