

# Clinician Screening Tool for Identifying Patients Under Investigation for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)

**Only consider persons with:**  
History of fever *and/or* respiratory illness that may include pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome or other serious respiratory conditions of potentially infectious origin

**A**  
If patient is clinically stable for outpatient management

**B**  
If patient requires hospitalization for respiratory illness (e.g. low O<sub>2</sub> sats, hypotension, tachycardia)

**Does the person have any of the following?**

- I. A history of health care employment** in or near the Arabian Peninsula<sup>1</sup> or the Republic of Korea in the 14 days before symptom onset
- II. A history of hospital visitation** (e.g. emergency room visit, doctor's appointment, visit someone in the hospital) in or near the Arabian Peninsula<sup>1</sup> or the Republic of Korea in the 14 days before symptom onset
- III. Close contact<sup>2</sup> of a confirmed or probable MERS case**

Does the person have a history of fever?

**NO**      **YES**

**Does the person have any of the following?**

- I. History of travel to or from** a country in or near the Arabian Peninsula<sup>1</sup> or the Republic of Korea in the 14 days before symptom onset
- II. Residency** in a country in or near the Arabian Peninsula<sup>1</sup> or the Republic of Korea in the 14 days before symptom onset
- III. Close contact<sup>2</sup> to a symptomatic person** who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) in the 14 days after traveling from countries in or near Arabian Peninsula<sup>1</sup> or the Republic of Korea
- IV. Is 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 is being evaluated, in consultation with state and local health departments

**YES**      **NO**

**NO**      **YES**

**STOP: No MERS testing**  
Continue to treat patient normally and test for influenza.

**This patient meets the criterion for a Patient Under Investigation for MERS**

- As soon as MERS-CoV infection is suspected, a mask should be placed on the patient and the evaluation should continue after the patient has been placed on standard, contact, and airborne precautions to prevent any additional exposures. Further information can be found at: [flhealth.gov/mers](http://flhealth.gov/mers) and [cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html)
- Contact your [county health department](#) epidemiology program to discuss testing for MERS coronavirus. Contact list can be found at: [flhealth.gov/CHDEpiContact](http://flhealth.gov/CHDEpiContact)

<sup>1</sup> Countries considered in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring include: Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel (the West Bank and/or Gaza), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.  
<sup>2</sup> Close contact is defined as a) any person who provided care for the patient, including a health care 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.