CLOSE CONTACT1 OF A CONFIRMED CASE POSITIVE FOR MERS-CoV THROUGH A PHE NATIONAL REFERENCE LAB TEST

BASELINE

Contact CURRENTLY ILL with acute respiratory symptoms (fever or cough) that developed WITHIN 14 DAYS OF EXPOSURE

Contact IS NOT CURRENTLY ILL with acute respiratory symptoms that developed within 14 days of exposure

• PHE Health Protection Team
  -collect baseline data on close contacts1 (Form 2a) – email to CIDSC Colindale (respiratory.lead@phe.gov.uk)
  -discuss with CIDSC whether baseline clotted blood sample required. If so, ensure sample is collected + sent to PHE Reference lab (RVU) – see lab guidance here

Contact becomes ill with acute respiratory symptoms (fever or cough) within 14 days of last exposure with confirmed case?

YES

PHE TESTING LAB RESULT NEGATIVE FOR MERS-CoV

FOLLOW UP

• complete contact follow-up form (Form 2b) 14 days since last exposure – email to CIDSC Colindale
• If required, ensure clotted blood sample is taken at least 21 days since baseline sample and sent to PHE Reference lab (RVU) – see lab guidance here

NO

PHE TESTING LAB RESULT POSITIVE FOR MERS-CoV

If positive for MERS-CoV, patient becomes a presumptive positive case – follow “PHE CASE MANAGEMENT ALGORITHM”

1Close contact definition (from date of illness onset in index case and throughout their symptomatic period):
• Any person who had prolonged face-to-face contact (>15 minutes) with a symptomatic confirmed case of MERS-CoV in a household or other closed setting.
• Health or social care worker who provided direct clinical or personal care or examination of a symptomatic confirmed case of MERS-CoV, or was within close vicinity of an aerosol generating procedure AND who was not wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE**) at the time.

2NB: If there is no possibility of laboratory confirmation because the patient or samples are not available and the symptoms are not already explained by any other infection or aetiology, the symptomatic contact becomes a probable case (see WHO interim recommendations for further details)

3Full PPE: correctly fitted high filtration respirator (FFP3), gown, gloves and eye protection