INVESTIGATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT OF CLOSE CONTACTS OF MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS (MERS-CoV) CASES

CLOSE CONTACT[1] 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**

BASELINE
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 contacts[1] (***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

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Baseline clotted blood sample should be taken asap and ideally within 7 days of exposure.
Follow-up sample should be taken at least 21 days after baseline sample.
If more than 28 days have passed since exposure, only a single serological sample is required.
NB: serological samples are not required from children under 5yrs.

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

YES

NO

SYMPTOMATIC CONTACT[2]
- Treat as a possible case
- ensure patient self isolates if hospital admission not required
- inform CIDSC Colindale by **email** (respiratory.lead@phe.gov.uk, or contact the duty doctor if out of hours) and collect baseline data if not already completed (***Form 2a***) – **email** to CIDSC Colindale
- ensure appropriate samples are collected and sent to both the designated PHE MERS-CoV testing lab and local PHE Lab (see lab guidance here) using **full PPE[3]** (infection control advice here)

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.

PHE TESTING LAB RESULT **POSITIVE FOR MERS-CoV**

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

[1]Close 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.

[2]NB. 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)

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