



At the end of September 2018, a total of 2260 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 803 associated deaths (case-fatality rate: 35.5%) were reported globally; the majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (1882 cases, including 729 related deaths with a case-fatality rate of 38.7%).

During the month of September, a total of 14 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS were reported globally; 13 laboratory-confirmed cases were reported in Saudi Arabia, including 6 associated deaths, and 1 laboratory-confirmed case was reported in Republic of Korea. The cases from Saudi Arabia included five secondary infections: two symptomatic household contacts and three hospital acquired infections. The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases, when compared during the same corresponding period of 2013 to 2018, do not show any significant difference or change. Owing to improved infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, the number of hospital-acquired cases of MERS has dropped significantly since 2015.

The age group 50–59 years continues to be at highest risk for acquiring infection of primary cases. The age group 30–39 years is most at risk for secondary cases. The number of deaths is higher in the age group 50–59 years for primary cases and 70–79 years for secondary cases.

[Read the latest MERS update, September 2018](#)

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