

Cases of Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) have been reported regularly to WHO since 2012. In order to take an independent expert view of the situation and to be prepared for any further action, should it be required, the Director General convened three meetings for the IHR emergency committee on 9 July, 17 July and on 25 September 2013. The emergency committee comprises international experts from a variety of relevant disciplines and all regions of WHO, their task is to provide expert technical advice to the Director General in accordance with the IHR.

The committee unanimously decided, based on the current information and using a risk assessment approach, that the conditions for a Public Health Emergency Of International Concern (PHEIC) has not at present been met. Members of the committee offered technical advice for consideration by WHO and Member States on a broad range of issues and emphasized the importance of strengthening surveillance; continuing to increase awareness and effective risk communication concerning MERS-CoV; supporting countries that are particularly vulnerable, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa; increasing relevant diagnostic testing capacities; continuing with investigative work; sharing information in a timely manner in accordance with the IHR and ensuring ongoing active coordination with WHO.

### **Relevant health topics**

[Coronavirus infections](#)

### **Related links**

[Surveillance, forecasting and response: Outbreaks](#)

[Middle East respiratory syndrome - coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) – Update](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions on Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#)

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