At the end of May 2018, a total of 2220 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 790 associated deaths (case-fatality rate 35.6%) were reported globally; the majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (1844 cases, including 716 related deaths with a case-fatality rate of 38.8%). During the month of May, a total of 12 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS were reported globally; 11 cases in Saudi Arabia including 1 associated death and one case reported in United Arab Emirates. A household cluster of 8 laboratory-confirmed MERS cases was reported in Najran Region during the last week of May. Apart from the index case, who had history of contact with camels and also consumed raw camel milk before he was diagnosed, none of the remaining seven cases in this cluster had any history of contact with camels. The index case had a date of onset of symptoms on 17 May 2018 and by 31 May, seven symptomatic secondary cases were reported from this cluster. More cases are expected to be reported from this cluster as the close contacts are being followed up and the laboratory test result of some of the close contacts are awaiting. The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases, when compared during the last week of May 2018 and by 31 May, seven symptomatic secondary cases were reported from this cluster. More cases are expected to be reported from this cluster as the close contacts are being followed up and the laboratory test result of some of the close contacts are awaiting.

The age group 50–59 years is most at risk for primary cases. The number of deaths is higher in the age group 50–59 years for primary cases and 70–79 years for secondary 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.

The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases, when compared during the same period of 2015 and 2016, 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 number of cases in Eastern Mediterranean Region, Apr 2012–May 2018

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- At the end of May 2018, a total of 2220 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 790 associated deaths (case-fatality rate 35.6%) were reported globally; the majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (1844 cases, including 716 related deaths with a case-fatality rate of 38.8%). During the month of May, a total of 12 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS were reported globally; 11 cases in Saudi Arabia including 1 associated death and one case reported in United Arab Emirates.

- A household cluster of 8 laboratory-confirmed MERS cases was reported in Najran Region during the last week of May. Apart from the index case, who had history of contact with camels and also consumed raw camel milk before he was diagnosed, none of the remaining seven cases in this cluster had any history of contact with camels. The index case had a date of onset of symptoms on 17 May 2018 and by 31 May, seven symptomatic secondary cases were reported from this cluster. More cases are expected to be reported from this cluster as the close contacts are being followed up and the laboratory test result of some of the close contacts are awaiting.

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**Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between Dec 2012-May 2013 and Dec 2017-May 2018**

**Characteristic**  
Number  50  641  279  112  124  99  
Median age in years  57  47  55  55  55  54  
Gender (% male)  74  62  74  82  78  78  
% of primary cases  30  18  19  29  39  31  
% of secondary cases  66  43  37  27  23  21  
(%) of unknown contact history  4  33  28  4  6  0  
% of HCW  6  29  8  10  10  4  
% of Fatal  70  37  43  34  30  34

**COMMENTS**

- The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases, when compared during the same period of 2015 and 2016, 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.

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**COMMUNITY VS HOSPITAL-ACQUIRED MERS CASES, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION, JANUARY-MAY 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Community acquired</th>
<th>Hospital acquired</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SUMMARY**

- 2220 laboratory-confirmed Cases Reported Since April 2012
- 790 deaths reported since April 2012
- 27 countries reported cases globally
- 12 countries reported cases since April 2012 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region