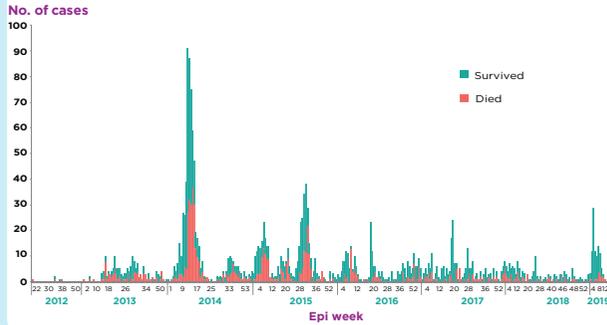


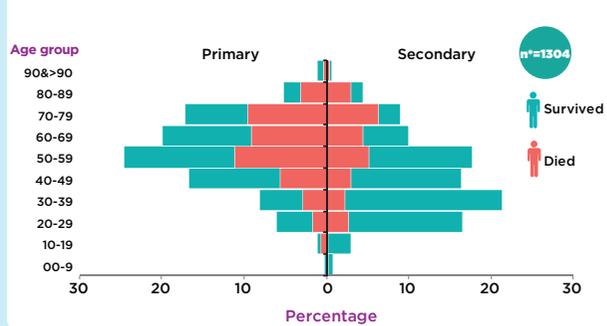
HIGHLIGHTS

- At the end of March 2019, a total of 2399 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 827 associated deaths (case-fatality rate: 34.4%) were reported globally; the majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (2008 cases, including 749 related deaths with a case-fatality rate of 37.3%). During the month of March, a total of 25 laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS were reported globally. All the 25 cases were reported from Saudi Arabia with 4 associated deaths.
- This month, Saudi Arabia continued to experience the outbreak in Wadi Aldwaser city and one of its hospitals as 9 new cases (including one death) were reported. From January 29 to end of March, a total of 61 laboratory-confirmed cases with 8 associated deaths have been reported and linked to this outbreak. The Saudi Arabian Ministry of health has launched a full-scaled investigation of the outbreak in Wadi Aldwasir including identification of all household and healthcare worker contacts of confirmed patients. Within the affected health care facilities, infection prevention and control measures have been enhanced including intensive mandatory on-the-job training on infection control measures for all healthcare workers in emergency room and intensive care unit.
- The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases, when compared during the same corresponding period of 2013 to 2019, do not show any significant difference or change, except for the increase in the number of secondary cases and healthcare worker cases due to the current hospital outbreak.
- 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.

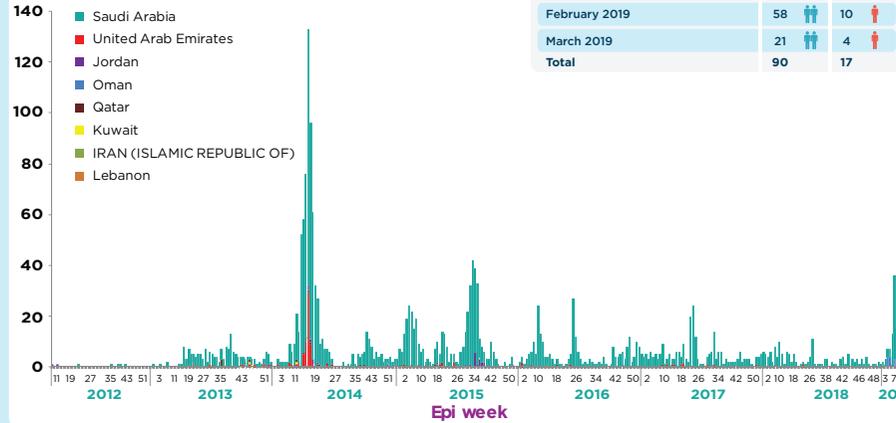
MERS cases reported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by week of symptoms onset, June 2012-March 2019



Age and fatality distribution of Primary and Secondary cases of MERS reported from Saudi Arabia, 2012-March 2019



Laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS reported in Eastern Mediterranean Region, April 2012-March 2019



MERS in Saudi Arabia (January-March 2019)

	Survived	Died
January 2019	11	3
February 2019	58	10
March 2019	21	4
Total	90	17

SUMMARY

2399 Laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012

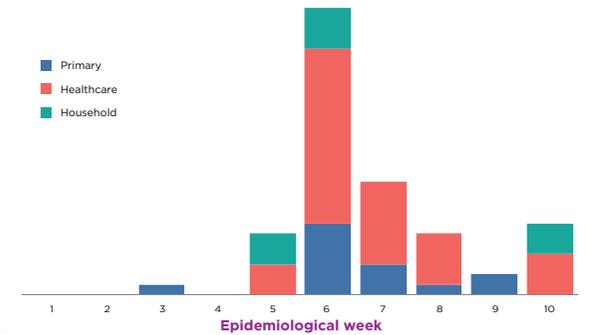
827 deaths reported since April 2012

27 countries reported cases globally

12 countries reported cases since April 2012 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

61 laboratory-confirmed cases reported linked to an outbreak in Saudi Arabia since January 2019

Weekly distribution of MERS cases by place of infection, Wadi Aldwaser, Saudi Arabia 2019



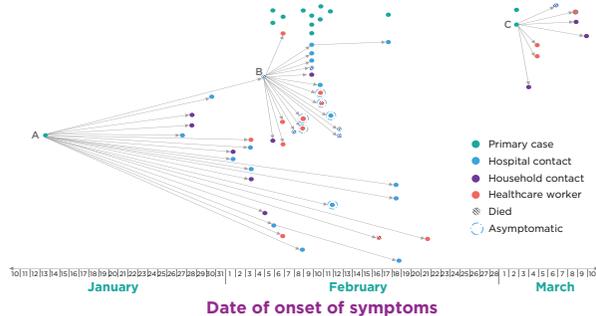
Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between October-March 2013 and October-March 2019

Characteristic	Oct 13-Mar 14	Oct 14-Mar 15	Oct 15-Mar 16	Oct 16-Mar 17	Oct 17-Mar 18	Oct 18-Mar 19
Number	124	232	123	120	105	139
Median age in years	50	55	53	57	55	51
Gender (% male)	78	75	71	77	76	76
% of primary cases	30	24	21	42	34	32
% of secondary cases	31	36	36	10	13	50
(%) of unknown contact history	36	38	3	2	0	0
% of HCW	27	11	11	4	4	12
% of Fatal	50	46	36	36	35	17

Characteristics of MERS cases reported from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, June 2012-March 2019

Type of case	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Grand Total
Primary	3	36	164	52	74	71	54	29	483
Secondary	2	93	264	222	60	90	35	55	821
Missing		1	15	102	103	68	52	21	362
Unknown		28	219	78	11	5	1		342
Total	5	158	662	454	248	234	142	105	2008

Cases of MERS in healthcare workers reported from Saudi Arabia Jan 2013 - March 2019



* The transmission chain is built upon the available information by end of March. The chain might be updated/modified based on the results of further investigations.