

### Current Health Event

#### First MERS case detected in Lebanon

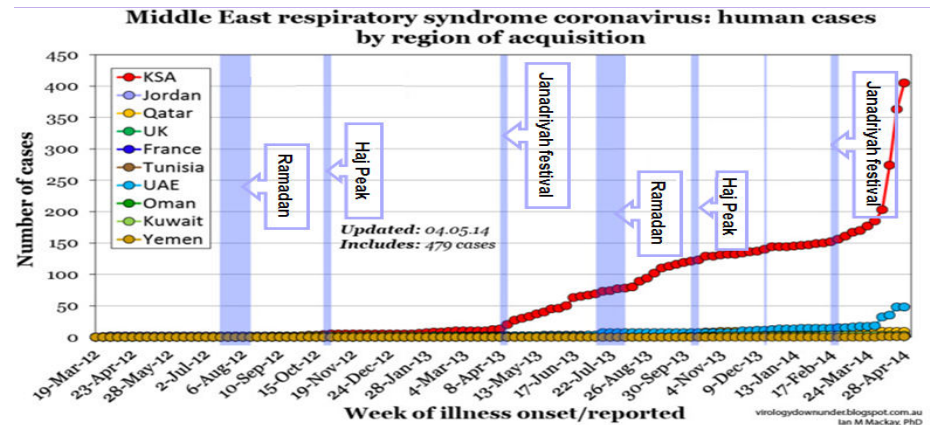
Lebanon reported the first case of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) on Thursday 8 May. MoPH and WHO Lebanon are monitoring and promoting infection control measures at hospitals.

#### Editorial note:

To-date, 497 cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS) infection have been reported. Healthcare workers (HCW) have been hit hardest by the disease and represented about 44% of cases. The fact that about 25% of all reported MERS infections are doctors, nurses, and other HCW is indicative of the infectious nature of this novel virus and strongly suggests that MERS is highly infectious among individuals with close contact with patients.

Application of basic infection prevention and control measures in health facilities is key to protect HCW and other patients. Recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be worn by HCW upon entry into patient rooms or care areas. Gloves, gowns and eye protection (goggles or face shield) in addition to respiratory protection (fit-tested disposable N95) should be used. If a respirator is unavailable, a facemask should be worn. In this situation respirators should be made available as quickly as possible. Upon exit from the patient room or care area, PPE should be removed and either discarded, or if re-useable PPE, cleaned and disinfected according to the manufacturer's reprocessing instructions.

Patient should be placed in Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR). If an AIIR is not available, the patient



should be transferred as soon as is feasible to a facility where an AIIR is available. Pending transfer, place a facemask on the patient and isolate him/her in a single-patient room with the door closed. The patient should not be placed in any room where room exhaust is recirculated without high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration. Once in an AIIR, the patient's facemask may be removed; the facemask should remain on if the patient is not in an AIIR. When outside of the AIIR, patients should wear a facemask to contain secretions. Limit transport and movement of the patient outside of the AIIR to medically-essential purposes. Implement staffing policies to minimize the number of personnel that must enter the room.

#### Travel Restriction:

World Health Organization still does not recommend applying any travel or trade restrictions to deal with MERS.

- WHO encourages all Member States to continue their surveillance for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).
- Visitors of farms, live animal markets or barns, should adhere to general hygiene measures such as regular hand washing before and after touching animals, avoiding contact with sick animals, and food hygiene practices.
- WHO does not advise special screening at points of entry with regard to this event nor does it currently recommend the application of any travel or trade restrictions."

#### Cumulative Notifiable diseases in Lebanon (Syrian)

Disease	2013 Cumul	2014 Cumul*	Apr	May
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>				
Polio	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	34(7)	12(5)	3(0)	0(0)
Measles	1760(232)	180(70)	63(28)	11(3)
Mumps	14(2)	240(29)	129(12)	27(1)
Pertussis	59(9)	26(7)	2(1)	0(0)
Rabies	1(1)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Rubella	27(1)	10(6)	6(3)	0(0)
Tetanus	4(0)	0(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Viral Hep B	141(8)	63(7)	22(4)	1(0)
<b>Water/Food Borne Diseases</b>				
Brucellosis	189(12)	38(1)	11(0)	0(0)
Hydatid cyst	13(3)	4(0)	0(0)	0(0)
Typhoid Fever	407(21)	55(3)	8(3)	0(0)
Viral Hep A	1551(220)	532(83)	64(6)	5(4)
<b>Other Diseases</b>				
Leishmaniasis	1033(1032)	259(258)	27(27)	1(1)
Meningitis	204(24)	64(6)	20(2)	0(0)
Viral Hep C	103(4)	29(1)	6(0)	0(0)

Source: Ministry of Public Health, Lebanon