

# MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (MERS)

## INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

**KEEP THIS CARD**

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that are known to cause serious illness, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). MERS-CoV was first identified in the Middle East.

**If you have recently returned from an area affected by MERS, you should:**

- See your doctor immediately if you feel unwell and develop some or all of the symptoms, especially if you have a weakened immune system. Tell your doctor you have travelled.
- Talk to a Biosecurity Officer at your port of arrival if you feel unwell when you arrive in Australia.
- Keep this card for up to 14 days after you have left the MERS affected area as symptoms may take this long to develop.

Symptoms of MERS-CoV are:



**FEVER**



**COUGH**



**BREATHING DIFFICULTIES**



**DIARRHOEA**

For more information check the Australian Government website

[www.health.gov.au/MERS](http://www.health.gov.au/MERS)

# IF YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO, OR LIVE IN, AN AREA OVERSEAS THAT IS AFFECTED BY MERS, YOU SHOULD:



Australian Government

Department of Health  
and Aged Care

## PROTECT YOURSELF

- Avoid close contact with sick people and sick animals.
- When visiting a farm or market where there may be camels, wash your hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitiser after any contact with camels.
- Avoid raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat and anything contaminated with camel secretions.
- Keep up-to-date with all routine vaccinations.

## STOP THE SPREAD

- If you are sick, avoid contact with other people.
- Wash hands regularly with soap and water or use hand sanitiser.

## SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE

- If you develop symptoms of MERS infection, seek medical advice.

## KEEP INFORMED

Check [www.health.gov.au/MERS](http://www.health.gov.au/MERS) for regular updates.