

Information for travellers

Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)

MERS is a rare but serious respiratory infection usually spread to people from infected camels in the Middle East.

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

- See your doctor immediately if you feel unwell and develop any 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 are:



Fever



Cough

New shortness
of breath

Diarrhoea

For more information check the Australian Government website health.gov.au/MERS

If you are travelling to, or live in, an area overseas that is affected by MERS, you should:

Protect yourself

- Avoid close contact with sick people and sick animals.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with camels or camel products.
- Avoid raw camel milk, undercooked camel meat and anything contaminated with camel urine.
- Keep up-to-date with all routine and travel 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 health.gov.au/MERS for regular updates.



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

health.gov.au/MERS