



# Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

## Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), which is nationally notifiable within Australia. State and territory health departments use this definition to decide whether to notify the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care of a case.

Version	Status	Last reviewed	Implementation date
1.0	Initial CDNA case definition		1 July 2016

## Reporting

**Confirmed** and **probable** cases should be notified.

### Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires **laboratory definitive evidence** only.

### Laboratory definitive evidence

Detection of MERS coronavirus by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in a public health reference laboratory using the testing algorithm described in the [national guideline \(SoNG\)](#) and summarised below<sup>1</sup>.

### Probable case

A probable case requires **clinical evidence AND epidemiological evidence**.

## Clinical evidence

An acute respiratory infection with clinical, radiological, or histopathological evidence of pulmonary parenchymal disease (e.g. pneumonia or pneumonitis or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome).

AND

No possibility of laboratory confirmation for MERS-CoV because the patient or samples are not available for testing.

## Epidemiological evidence

Close contact with a laboratory-confirmed case.