

USFJ
MERS Information Sheet
18 June 2015

Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a serious respiratory disease. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. There is no vaccine or specific treatment available. Numerous cases have been reported in the Republic of Korea. No U.S. service members, civilians, contractors or SOFA dependents in Japan have been diagnosed with or are suspected of having been exposed to MERS.

U.S. Forces Japan is working closely with the Government of Japan to increase screening measures for the MERS virus in order to provide the best possible protection from for U.S. and Japanese citizens living in Japan. USFJ medical leaders are working with US public health experts and GOJ public health authorities to closely monitor the MERS outbreak. The U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a Travel Watch Level 1 for the Republic of Korea, which means to “practice usual precautions” and is consistent with the recommended prevention methods listed below.

The following precautionary measures are recommended:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing and throw the used tissue in the trash. Do not reuse tissues.
- Clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces, such as doorknobs, light switches, handrails, or toys.
- Avoid close contact, such as kissing or sharing eating utensils, with sick individuals.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

All known MERS patients in Korea acquired their illness in hospital settings where they came in direct or indirect contact with MERS patients. We are watching this closely and will continue to provide updates as necessary.

Further information on MERS may be obtained at the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/MERS