

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION		INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (MERS)		MERS Coronavirus
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	- See the case definition for MERS in the CD Manual. - Read about MERS on the NC DPH website - Read the provider memo from the CDB: https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/docs/MERS_CoV_Memo.pdf - Read about MERS on the CDC website: http://www.cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS/MERS/ - Read CDC MERS Information for Health Care Providers: https://www.cdc.gov/mers/site.html#hcp - Read CDC MERS Information for Public Health: https://www.cdc.gov/mers/site.html#php - Print and review reporting forms: <i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: MERS (DHHS/EPI)</i>	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	- Notify CDB of the report or suspect case of MERS immediately before beginning to investigate. - Begin separation and masking of patients with respiratory symptoms immediately. - Obtain medical record (admission note, progress notes, biopsy report(s), other lab report(s), and discharge summary). - Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. - Evaluate the epidemiological evidence for possible exposure. See CDC MERS website for current information on travel, occupational/environmental risks: https://www.cdc.gov/mers/about/index.html#cdc_disease_basics_risk-who-is-at-risk	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	- Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. - Evaluate the laboratory results to determine if the requirements of the case definition are satisfied. - Contact the healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated.	
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.	
IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES		
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	- Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. - If source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information.	

IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	- Implement control measures as described in the following information provided on the CDC's Prevention and Control for Hospitalized MERS Patients - Notify the local health director and implement risk communication messages for the public and health professionals.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	- Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. - Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation is complete.
CASE FINDING	During the course of the investigation, look for symptoms of the disease in other exposed individuals, refer symptomatic individuals to health care provider for evaluation and institute appropriate control measures.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
TESTING	- Confirmation of MERS-CoV can only be performed at CDC. If confirmatory testing is warranted, call CDC's Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 for CDC consultation and to request CDC testing. - Testing at CDC requires prior approval from CDB. - Refer to the CDC MERS website for instructions on Laboratory Testing for MERS: (https://www.cdc.gov/mers/php/laboratories/index.html) for submission of clinical specimens to the CDC.
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	- Ensure appropriate infection prevention measures are being utilized when in contact with a suspected or known case. - Infection prevention measures are described in the CDC's Prevention and Control for Hospitalized MERS Patients
RISK COMMUNICATION	- Any case or suspect case of MERS will draw intense media interest. Continual communication between local, state and federal health officials will be necessary. Ensure public information officers are involved and updated. - Outbreaks of MERS will require EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release.