

Abstract

# MERS-CoV Outbreak at Domat Al-Jandal Hospital

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## Abstract

**Background:** Saudi Arabia was first to report MERS-CoV in the middle east region in 2012. Several outbreaks had occurred since that time and still occur. In August, 2017 an outbreak of MERS-CoV at Al-Jouf province in Saudi Arabia possibly linked to an index case who admitted to hospital while infectious.

**Objective:** A team of Saudi field epidemiology training program was responsible to investigate the outbreak, to determine causes and to prevent recurrence.

**Methods:** List of cases were obtained from hospital administration. Information was collected by interviewing infection control team, outbreak team at hospital, local MERS-CoV coordinator and by observing most relevant sections at hospital.

**Results:** A total of 13 cases of MERS CoV infection were reported at Domat Al-Jandal hospital. Of these 13 cases, 8 cases were health care workers (3 physicians and 5 nurses), 3 cases were contacts cases of the index case. Most of cases acquired infection by person to person transmission at male medical ward and intensive care unit, only 3 contacts cases may get infected when they brought the primary case to hospital. Attack rate among physicians was 12% and among nurses was 9.8%. We found that late diagnosis, improper isolation of patients and non-compliance on infection control protocols are the leading causes of spread of the infection.

**Conclusions:** Sorting and examining patients carefully at triage and emergency before admission to hospital, adhering to infection control protocols, applying effective isolation measures are a must in the way to stop or prevent any MERS-CoV infection at hospitals.

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