

News Advisory  
June 8, 2015

## Filipinos in South Korea Reminded vs. MERS-CoV

With the recently diagnosed cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus in South Korea, POEA Administrator Hans Leo J. Cacdac has reiterated an earlier advisory for all Filipino workers to take the necessary precaution against the spread of MERS-CoV.

According to Administrator Cacdac, OFWs in South Korea should strictly observe the following guidelines issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Philippine Department of Health (DoH) in order to avoid getting infected with this new strain of corona virus:

- a) Practice proper hand hygiene always, by washing your hands with soap or hand rubs with alcohol before and after eating; before and after handling, cooking and preparing food; after coughing, sneezing and using the toilets; and before and after touching animals.
- b) Practice proper cough etiquette by covering your mouth and nose while sneezing or coughing. Use a facial tissue when coughing or sneezing and cover your mouth and nose with it. Dispose the tissue in a waste basket.
- c) Avoid contact with farm and domesticated animals, including camels.
- d) Avoid contact with sick or infected with MERS - CoV. If you have respiratory illness, stay home and wear a surgical mask to protect your family members.
- e) If you are a health worker, strictly follow infection control protocols in your work.
- f) Visit your doctor, a hospital or health facility immediately if symptoms of MERS - CoV manifest itself, including, persistent coughing, and other symptoms.

OFWs returning to the Philippines, especially those from MERS - CoV affected country or countries are advised to do the following:

- a) Monitor your health for at least fourteen (14) days.
- b) Should you develop signs and symptoms (fever, headache, sore throat, body weakness, cough, difficulty of breathing, unexplained bruising or bleeding, severe diarrhea), cover your mouth and nose with a piece of cloth, handkerchief or surgical mask to prevent spread of infection.
- c) Call any of the following numbers:

Bureau of Quarantine:  
(632) 320-9101, (632) 320-9107

OPCEN-HEMS:

+63 922-884-1564, +63 920-949-8419, +63 915-772-5621

National Epidemiology Center (NEC)/ Department of Health (DOH):  
(632) 743-1937

The Human Resources Development Service of Korea, through its EPS Center Director-General Eunhee Jeong informed Cacdac that the situation is under control by the health authorities of Korea. Nevertheless, it is still important to be on the side of caution by observing the measures indicated versus MERS-CoV.

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