



Philippine
Overseas
Employment
Administration

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Department of Labor and Employment
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ADVISORY NO. 02
Series of 2015

TO : ALL CONCERNED

Subject : Reiteration of Advisories on the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus (MERS – CoV)

To sustain efforts in containing MERS – CoV and protecting our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), the POEA reiterates Advisory Nos. 5, 6 and 10 it has issued in 2014 on the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Corona Virus (MERS – CoV), as follows:

1. Advisory No. 05, Series of 2014:

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the Middle East, including newly-hired and returning workers are advised to take preventive measures against the MERS – CoV for their safety and protection.

Also, all licensed recruitment agencies are advised to conduct special briefings on precautionary measures against MERS – CoV for their recruited workers. The recruitment agencies are further enjoined to report to the Department of Health (DOH) and the POEA any MERS – CoV case affecting their deployed workers.

The DOH has issued the following protective measures against MERS – CoV:

- 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.

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- g) If you were in close contact with a confirmed MERS – CoV patient, comply with local health regulations and postpone any trip abroad until after test results are negative.
- h) Practice healthy habits such as regular exercise, balanced and nutritional diet, and adequate sleep of at least 8 hours, as it would help strengthen the body's immunity.
- i) Do not panic and believe rumors regarding MERS – CoV. Make sure information comes from relevant government authority.

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

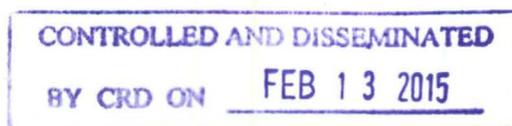
2. Advisory No. 06, Series of 2014:

All licensed recruitment agencies are urged to have their returning/ vacationing workers from the Middle East undergo MERS – CoV test prior to their departure for the Philippines through the facilitation of their respective employers at no cost to the workers.

3. Advisory No. 10, Series of 2014:

To further strengthen and step up efforts in containing MERS – CoV cases and protect our OFWs who, by nature of their jobs are vulnerable and exposed to MERS – CoV contamination, all agencies deploying healthcare workers to the Middle East countries are hereby required to monitor the status of their deployed workers in their respective workplaces.

MERS – CoV cases involving Filipino workers shall be immediately reported to the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Welfare and Employment of the POEA.



Agencies are also required to coordinate with their employers on their MERS – CoV control and precautionary programs and measures for the safety of their workers, including Filipino staff, and same shall be similarly reported to the POEA.

For immediate compliance.


HANS LEO J. CACDAC
Administrator

13 February 2015

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