

23/05/2013

Version 1.0

Alert Notice for General Practitioners: Novel Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) and Influenza A(H7N9)

- Beware of severe respiratory and/or fever symptoms in recently returned travellers from the Arabian Peninsula and neighbouring countries¹ or from China. These persons may have novel coronavirus (MERS-CoV) or influenza A(H7N9) which are infectious and maybe highly virulent
- Patients with the above illnesses usually present directly to the Emergency Department as they are quite sick but may present to any GP surgery, Out of Hours Co-op or Swift-Care Centre
- Symptoms include fever and clinical evidence of pneumonia or severe/life threatening illness suggestive of an infectious process
- Doctors should be alert to the possibility of atypical presentations in patients who are immunocompromised

If there is any clinical suspicion of either of the above illnesses, immediately adopt infection control measures as per the attached algorithm to protect yourself, other staff and patients.

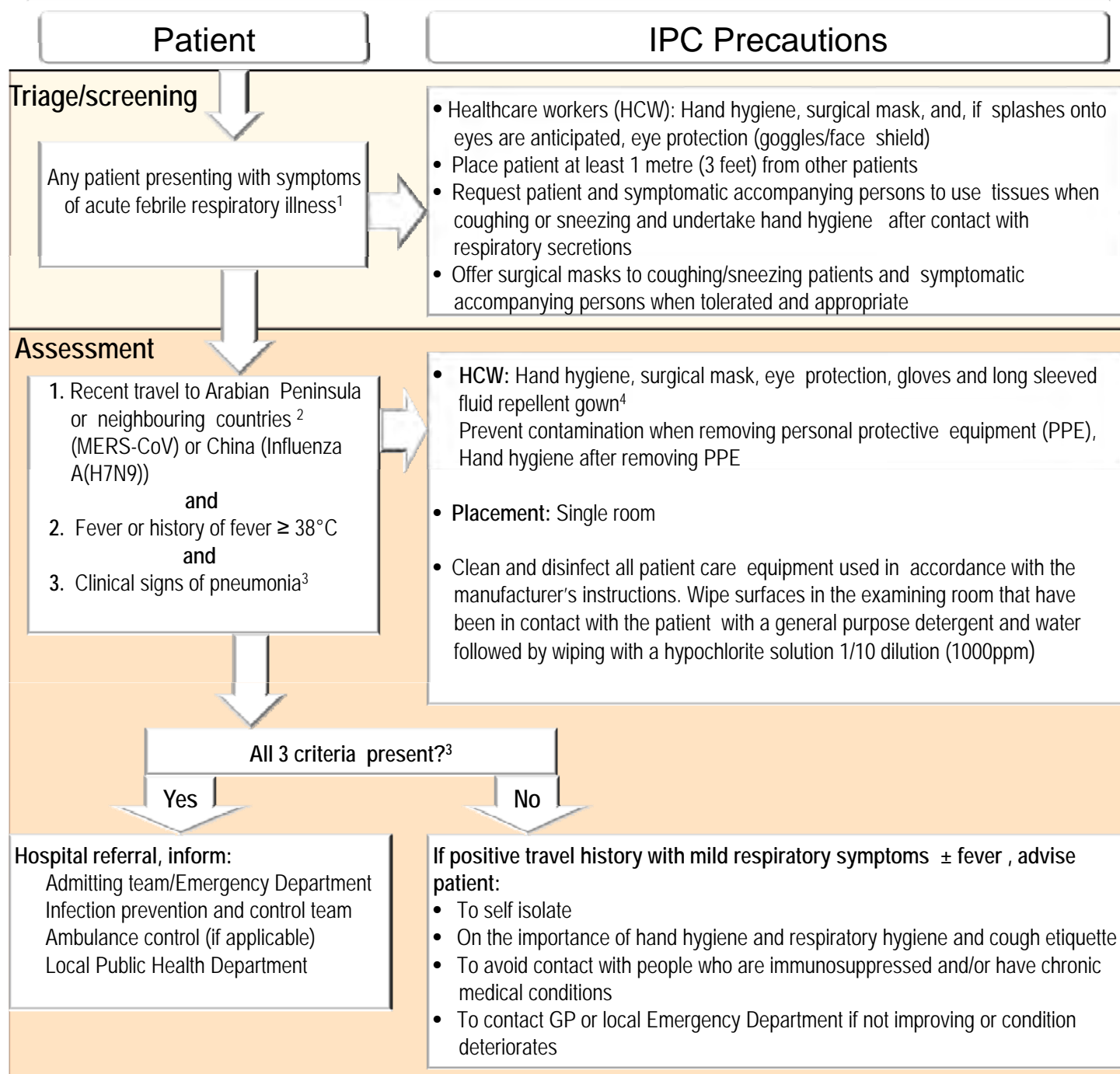
Click for further information:

Case definition for [MERS-Cov](#) and [avian influenza A \(H7N9\)](#)

Infection prevention and control guidance and posters (e.g., donning and removing personal protective equipment safely) can be sourced [here](#)

¹ Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian territories, Oman, Qatar, Syria, UAE and Yemen

Interim infection prevention and control (IPC) precautions for patients suspected to be infected with Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) or influenza A(H7N9) in primary care facilities



1: Symptoms include fever, cough, and often sore throat, coryza, sneezing, shortness of breath, wheezing, or difficulty breathing.

2: Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian territories, Oman, Qatar, Syria, UAE and Yemen

3: Clinicians should be alert to the possibility of atypical presentations in patients who are immunocompromised. IPC precautions for MERS-CoV and avian influenza A(H7N9) should also be applied to patients with a positive travel history and any severe/life threatening illness suggestive of an infectious process.

4: Aerosol generating procedures (intubation, tracheostomy insertion, manual ventilation and non-invasive ventilation) require additional precautions. As these procedures are very unlikely to be undertaken in primary care, the additional precautions are not included here. Further information in the Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines for MERS-CoV and Influenza A(H7N9) at www.hpsc.ie