

Swedish Medical Center

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Screening at Swedish

Ambulatory Clinic Scheduling and Reception, Hospital Patient Registration and ER Registration

Every person who calls an ambulatory clinic requesting an appointment, or walks in for evaluation of acute illness in a clinic, Emergency Services and inpatient admission will be questioned as follows:

Due to respiratory illness associated with travel outside of the USA we now ask all patients the following travel questions: (1). Have you traveled outside of the USA in the last 14 days or, (2) had contact with a person that is ill that travelled outside of the country in the last 14 days?

NO

If the answer is no to both of those questions then you may continue with your routine triage, scheduling or admission assessment. The patient does not currently meet MERS screening criteria. Please still offer a mask to all people with fever and respiratory symptoms.

Yes

If they answer yes, proceed with the screening to determine if the patient has fever and respiratory symptoms

- Do you have a fever of greater than 100.4, or did you have one before taking a fever-reducing medicine?
- Do you have respiratory symptoms such as cough, wheezing, or chest congestion?
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NO

If the answer is no to both of those questions then you may continue with your routine triage and scheduling. The patient does not currently meet MERS screening criteria. Please still offer a mask to all people with fever and respiratory symptoms.

YES

If yes, caller or patient should be transferred to your triage nurse for full travel and exposure history questions.

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Travel and Potential Exposure History Questions performed by Triage RN

- Did you travel from countries of concern (Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), or Yemen) within 14 days before symptom onset?
- Have you had close contact with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near any of these countries?

NO

This patient does not have travel or exposure history strongly suggestive of MERS. Follow routine scheduling, reception or registration process. All patients with fever and/or respiratory symptoms should still be instructed to don a mask upon entry to the clinic or

YES

This patient has a fever, respiratory symptoms and a travel or exposure history requiring special actions and precautions to rule out MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, a viral respiratory illness).

Patient has a fever, respiratory symptoms and a travel or exposure history requiring special actions and precautions to rule out MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, a viral respiratory illness)

Clinic Scheduling and Triage RN when patient is on the phone

Ask Clinician to immediately evaluate the patient on the phone. If MERS is still a strong possibility and patient is stable, ask the patient to stay home. Call Seattle King County Public Health at (206) 296-4774. In Snohomish County call (425) 339-5278. Ask Public Health to see the patient in their home.

If the clinician determines the patient is unstable contact Public Health and ask for assistance in coordinating safe transport to a pre-warned Emergency Department.

Clinic Reception, Patient Registration, or Emergency Services Registration when patient is present

Ask patient to put on a mask. Move patient to a private room, alert staff and post isolation or precautions signage. If available, place patient in a negative pressure room and follow Airborne Respirator, Droplet and Contact Precautions. Personal Protective Equipment for caregivers should be N-95 Respirator, eye protection, gloves, and gown.

ER Triage Nurse, Admitting Nurse, ER Clinical Caregiver and Attending
Confirm and Document in Epic (We will work with EPIC Informatics)

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- Does patient have a fever of greater than 100.4, or did have one before taking a fever-reducing medicine?
- Does patient have respiratory symptoms such as cough, wheezing, chest congestion or shortness of breath?
- Did you travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula (Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), or Yemen) within 14 days before symptom onset?
- Have you had close contact with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near any of these countries?
- **If symptoms, travel or exposure history are all confirmed:**
 - Notify Nursing Supervisor and Infection Control through hospital operator (206) 386-6000
 - Notify Public Health at (206) 296-4774 in King County. In Snohomish County call (425) 339-5278.
 - Assure patient is in Airborne Respirator, Droplet and Contact Precautions. Personal Protective Equipment for caregivers should be N-95 Respirator, eye protection, gloves, and gown
 - Document in EPIC
 - Public Health will assist you in what specimens to collect, how to collect them and how to coordinate with their facility and our lab to assure they are sent promptly to the Public Health Laboratory.
- Continue with other care as needed. Involve Hospitalist, Intensivists, Infectious Disease and others as needed.

CDC and Seattle King County Public Health MERS guidelines are available at:
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/providers.aspx>