



## **MIDDLE EAST RESPIRATORY SYNDROME CORONAVIRUS (MERS-CoV) FACT SHEET**

### **WHAT IS MERS-CoV?**

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is an illness caused by a virus. All reported cases have been linked to countries in and near the Arabian Peninsula.

### **HOW DO YOU GET MERS-CoV?**

MERS-CoV is thought to spread from an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as through coughing or sneezing.

### **SYMPTOMS**

Severe acute respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Some people may experience gastrointestinal symptoms including diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. Symptoms usually appear 5 or 6 days after exposure.

### **TREATMENT**

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for MERS-CoV infection. Individuals with MERS-CoV often receive medical care to help relieve symptoms. Discuss treatment options with your doctor.

### **PREVENTION**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

### **DPHD EFFORTS**

Reports of suspected and confirmed cases of disease are made to the Delaware Public Health District (DPHD). The DPHD investigates potential sources of illness, conducts surveillance for the spread of disease, and engages in community outreach and education.