Vietnam to continue strong measures against MERS

Thanh Nien News

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A foreigner fills in a medical declaration form at Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport

Vietnam's health authorities will not lower their guard against the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-Cov), even though an outbreak in South Korea has appeared to slow down recently, an official said on Friday.

Tran Dac Phu, chief of the Department of Preventive Health under the health ministry, was quoted as saying in news website VietNamNet that they are keeping a close watch on the virus and strengthening preventive measures.

People are still required to go through temperature screenings when entering Vietnam, and those who are from MERS-stricken places including the Middle East and South Korea have to fill in medical declaration forms, he said.

Since South Korea announced the outbreak of MERS on May 20, Vietnamese health authorities have isolated 96 people with its symptoms, but all tested negative later.
The latest case was a 74-year-old Korean tourist who came to Vietnam with his wife on June 24. He fell sick on Thursday and came to a hospital in the central city of Hue for a check-up the same day, news website VnExpress reported.

He was sent to isolation on the same day, while Hue authorities rushed to review all the places he had visited and people he had contacted with. But his test results confirmed that he did not contract the virus.
Although many people dismissed the ministry's measures as "overreacting," they were meant to prevent the virus from entering Vietnam, or to contain it from spreading, Phu said.

MERS falls in the same group of viruses as the common cold and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which killed 800 people around the world in 2002-03.

The virus, first reported in Saudi Arabia in 2012, causes symptoms like cough, fever and shortness of breath, and is highly fatal – 36 percent of MERS patients have died, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

As of July 1, WHO said, it has been notified of 1,357 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection, including at least 484 related deaths.

In South Korea, 184 cases have been reported, including 33 deaths.
No vaccines or treatment is available for MERS, whose route of transmission still remains unknown, though most cases are attributed to human-to-human infection, WHO said.

Source: www.thanhniennews.com/health/vietnam-to-continue-strong-measures-against-mers-47507.html

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) Disease Transmission
Teachers Notes

These are some simple activities that will highlight to students how readily viruses such as MERS-CoV can be transmitted from person to person, generally as a result of a lack of good personal hygiene. The viral particles are thought to be spread via bodily secretions when coughing and sneezing, especially if the nose and mouth are not covered with tissues. It is suggested by the World health Organisation and the Saudi Ministry of Health that objects such as worktops, computers and mobile phones should be regularly disinfected to kill any traces of viral particles that may have been left by an infected individual.

Activity 1: Human to human contact

Kit required

- 1 bottle Pro glo spray gel per class
- 1 piece black cloth per group
- 1 hand held UV lamp per group

This activity will demonstrate to students how easily a virus can be transmitted from person to person via body contact. Pro glo gel will be sprayed onto the hands of one student, to represent someone sneezing into their bare hand, and then that student will shake hands with another member of their group. The second student will then shake the hand of the third, and so on until sequentially each student has shaken hands with another. A UV light will then be used to visualize how much virus (pro glo gel) has been transmitted between the students.

Procedure:

1. Nominate each member of your group as student number 1-5
2. Student 1 will have Pro glo gel sprayed onto their hand, to simulate somebody sneezing onto their bare hands. The gel represents the virus contained in secretion droplets when you sneeze.
3. Student 1 then shakes hands with student 2; student 2 shakes hands with student 3; student 3 shakes hands with student 4; student 4 shakes hands with student 5

Question: How many students do you think will have the viral particles on their hand after everyone shaking hands?

4. First hold the black cloth over your hand then shine the UV light over each students hands and look for any areas that glow brightly, this indicates any viral particles that have been transmitted to your hands

Activity 2: Work surface cleaning

In this activity students will learn how important it is to wash work surfaces properly, to prevent the spread of viral particles. A piece of black paper will be placed on from of each student, and a piece of plastic laminate placed on top of the paper. It is important that each student gets a new piece of plastic laminate, so a Pro gel is not carried over from one student to another. Pro glo gel, representing the MERS-CoV virus, will be sprayed in a small area of the laminate and students asked to

clean the area. UV lights will then be held over the laminate to visualize how well the work top was actually cleaned, and to demonstrate how viruses can remain on surfaces despite them being cleaned.

Kit required:

- 1 bottle Pro gel per class
- Antiseptic wipes (enough for approximately 3 per student)
- 5 pieces black paper per group
- 1 piece clear plastic laminate per student
- 1 piece black cloth per group
- 1 hand held UV lamp per group

Procedure:

1. Place a piece of black card on the table in front of you then put a piece of clear plastic laminate on top of the card
2. Spray a small amount of Pro glo gel, which represents the MERS-CoV virus, onto an area of the laminate
3. Use the antiseptic wipes to clean the area of laminate where you sprayed the gel. Clean it as best you can
4. Hold the black cloth over the top of you laminate and shine the UV lamp over the area of laminate that you have cleaned
5. How effective was your cleaning method???

Activity 3: Hand washing

Students will be able to find out just how good they are at cleaning their hands! Pupils will rub Pro glo gel on their hands, and wash them using either their regular hand washing method, or using the World Health organization hand washing recommendations. Under UV light, any areas that have not been washed adequately will glow brightly. This will demonstrate to students the importance of thorough handwashing in the prevention of MERS-CoV transmission.

Kit required:

- 1 bottle Pro glo
- Bar of soap
- Paper towels
- Bowls for water (if no sink available)
- Jugs for pouring water (if no sink available)
- 1 piece black cloth per group
- 1 UV hand held lamp per group

Procedure:

1. Rub Pro glo gel into your hands
2. Using the bars of soap and a bowl of water, ask 2 students from your group to wash their hands as they normally would, and 3 members of your group to wash their hands following the World Health Organisation hand washing guidelines (se diagram below)
3. Dry your hands with a paper towel
4. Place hands underneath the black cloth, and shine the UV lamp on them.

5. Areas of your hands that have not been washed thoroughly will glow brightly, and properly washed areas will not glow (areas to look closely at are around the finger nails, the backs of your hands and between your fingers)

How to Handwash?

WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED! OTHERWISE, USE HANDRUB

Duration of the entire procedure: 40-60 seconds

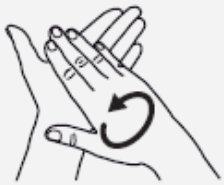
0

Wet hands with water;

1

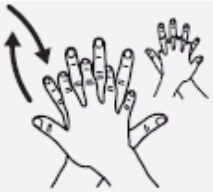
Apply enough soap to cover all hand surfaces;

2



Rub hands palm to palm;

3



Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;

4

Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;

5

Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;

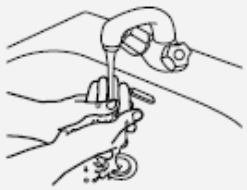
6

Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;

7

Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;

8

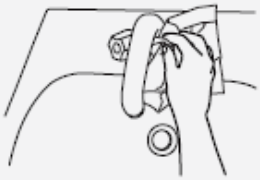


Rinse hands with water;

9

Dry hands thoroughly with a single use towel;

10



Use towel to turn off faucet;

11

Your hands are now safe.

World Health Organization | Patient Safety — A World Alliance for Safer Health Care | SAVE LIVES Clean Your Hands