Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Affects NYU Langone Hospital

Mineola, New York, April 4th, 2020 – Today, April 4th, management and staff have NYU Langone Hospital have officially confirmed that a patient ill with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) has been admitted. Unfortunately, an employee has also been affected by the virus. This condition, caused by coronavirus, is a respiratory infection related to severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS virus. Please be informed that we are taking this matter very seriously. We are currently treating both the patient and our employee with the utmost care. NYU is also underway with precautions to prevent the spread to others in the hospital. Please note that we are deeply saddened by the fact that one of our own as well as our beloved patient has fallen ill to this virus. We will not let our loved ones suffer in any way, everyone involved is working diligently around the clock to aid the affected individuals. “The health, both physical and mental, of our patients and staff are top priorities. We will not rest until each and every person under our care is safely treated and regulated. Our goal is to end suffering, not just subdue the symptoms and conditions” said NYU Langone Hospital Senior Vice President Joseph Greco.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome consists of symptoms affecting the entire body, more specifically the nasal region as well as the gastrointestinal region of the body. Patients generally suffer from fatigue, body aches, coughing, shortness of breath, sore throat, nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting. Those with pre-existing medical conditions where the immune system is compromised are more likely to get sick, have severe illness, and possibly even die. Patients who are more susceptible are those who have diabetes, cancer, lung disease, heart disease, and kidney disease. These people should exercise caution and be careful not to touch or be close to ill people during this time, this condition is very common and infectious, so if anyone shows signs of illness please be careful. The greatest risk is for those over the age of 65 but depends on the overall health of the individual (Cigna, 2023). Symptoms appear in about 5 to 6 days after exposure but range anywhere between 2 to 14 days. To avoid contracting the virus, please refrain from touching camels or being around infected camels or their body fluids. Milk, feces, urine, and saliva can increase a person’s chances of becoming infected with MERS-CoV (CDC, 2019).

At NYU Langone, we take command of any crises that come our way. Our staff is trained to understand and respond to incidents with sound clinical decision making. Regular training and education on infection control practices are being implemented to prevent the spread of MERS. Roles and responsibilities are divided out to the best suited for specific circumstances. We stay up to date on worsening situations from around the world to better prepare ourselves in case issues come to our doorstep. Outside resources are heavily utilized where the hospital takes advantage of services and data provided by organizations such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC). There is also healthy coordination between other hospitals to avoid confusion and misdiagnosis. In regard to our facilities, we keep equipment clean and in readily available locations for ease of access. Supplies are closely monitored to avoid running low. Infectious conditions are isolated and properly handled with protective equipment so as to not contaminate other patients and staff members. Additionally, we are promoting vaccinations among healthcare staff and patients, and have clear protocols for identifying and managing outbreaks. Our hospital believes that these strategies and practices are crucial for successfully handling any situation. Everyone who invests in us will be treated with high regard where excellence is expected, not hoped for.

Aside from the stated facts, we would like to help ease the minds of the community, patients, employees, and family members of those directly involved with this unfortunate situation. It is important for us to come together in these times of uncertainty. Our unity and cooperation are crucial in protecting ourselves and our loved ones. MERS and other complications associated with coronavirus have plagued us for too long. Our mission to eliminate the virus has been a tough one, but with each day, we are drawing closer to finding a long-term treatment.

For more in-depth analysis of the MERS virus, be sure to check out our website at [nyulangone](https://nyulangone.org/).org. You can also check out our social media platforms. We are currently on Facebook [(NYU Langone Health)](https://www.facebook.com/NYULangone), Instagram ([NYULangone](https://www.instagram.com/nyulangone/)), Twitter [(NYU Langone Health)](https://twitter.com/nyulangone), and YouTube [(NYU Langone Health)](https://www.youtube.com/%40NYULangoneHealth). Press releases, updates, safety tips, and general knowledge of medical procedures are available on all of our platforms. We care about keeping the community safe and by providing knowledgeable information, we can all work together to fight and prevent medical disasters. By providing these outlets of communication, we are also encouraging the public to get involved by inquiring about personal concerns and providing feedback so that we can better serve our community. The better our services are, the better your chances are to live a healthy and happy life.

Sincerely,

NYU Langone Hospital Medical Team

References

CDC. (2019). *Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/mers>

CDC. (2019). *MERS Symptoms & Complications*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/about/symptoms.html>

Cigna. (2023, June 12). *Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)*. [https://www.cigna.com/knowledge-center/hw/medical-topics/middle-east-respiratory- syndrome- abq6666#:~:text=The%20main%20symptoms%20of%20Middle,to%20stay%20in%20the %20hospital.](https://www.cigna.com/knowledge-center/hw/medical-topics/middle-east-respiratory-)

Haygood-Taylor, A. (2022, November 16). *20 Press Release Examples by Type (& Why They Work)*. Fit Small Business. <https://fitsmallbusiness.com/press-release-examples/>

Hick, J. L., Hanfling, D., & Wynia, M. (2022). *Hospital Planning for Contingency and Crisis Conditions: Crisis Standards of Care Lessons from COVID-19*. Joint Commission journal on quality and patient safety, 48(6-7), 354–361. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcjq.2022.02.003>

Hrala, J. (2023, January 25). Best Practices for Effective Communication. NSLS. <https://www.nsls.org/blog/best-practices-for-effective-communication>

Meltzer, R. (2022, June 15). *How to Write a Press Release: A Step-by-Step Guide*. How to Write a Press Release: A Step-by-Step Guide | Grammarly Blog. [https://www.grammarly.com/blog/press- release/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtp2bBhAGEiwAOZZTuDYPYuL3FvdDUciV-9xqOFFy- CwxpF6vgOPdua9O-6GPvmm\_nuzbqhoCWNAQAvD\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/press-%09%09release/?gclid=CjwKCAjwtp2bBhAGEiwAOZZTuDYPYuL3FvdDUciV-9xqOFFy-%09CwxpF6vgOPdua9O-6GPvmm_nuzbqhoCWNAQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds%20)