



Minutes

Title of meeting MERS CoV (PHE Level 3 Incident)
Date 15th June 2015
Time 13.15
Venue Teleconference (hosted in the Faraday Room, CRT, Victoria)

Attendees Brian McCloskey, Incident Director (Chair) - BM
NR (Notes) - EP
Nick Gent - NG
Karen Reddin – KR
Paul Cleary - PC
Mel Serotkin - MS

Apologies Maria Zambon
Copies to As Above
Paul Cosford
Richard Gleave
NR
NSAC
Mark Salter

1 Roll call

2 Rules of engagement/telcon protocol

2.1 BM reminded all those present to adhere to the recognised teleconference protocol.

3 Identification of AOB items

3.1 No items identified

4 Updates from PHE

4.1 National Infection Service (NIS) (delivered by FP)

- 4.1.1 Korean authorities are reporting 150 cases, 16 deaths and 14 reported as recovered.
- 4.1.2 No further cases reported to the exported case to China
- 4.1.3 2 cases linked to an ambulance that transported a case and one of which is the ambulance driver
- 4.1.4 6 possible quaternary transmission cases
- 4.1.5 Over weekend 2 possible cases outside Middle East or ROK
 - 4.1.5.1 UK (potential case imported from middle east) confirmed as negative
 - 4.1.5.2 Slovakia – awaiting confirmation (3 of 4 samples negative, 4th sample borderline)

- 4.1.6 No significant change to the epidemiology.
- 4.1.7 It was noted that with some of the onward transmission cases there have been delays in recognition leading to delays in diagnosis as with the index case.

4.2 Incident Director (delivered by BM)

- 4.2.1 WHO report broadly agrees with the assumptions PHE have made up to date. Has the same conclusions as to why this is an unusual outbreak but equivocal to that in Saudi Arabia.
- 4.2.2 ECDC issued a new risk assessment on Friday 12th June.
- 4.2.3 PHE risk assessment to remain unchanged supported by the ECDC risk assessment and WHO Korean report.

5 UK preparedness for imported cases

- 5.1 Letter and CAS Alert for CMO will be finalised today.
- 5.2 Assurance process carried out and confirmed that we are prepared to respond to an imported case of MERS CoV.
- 5.3 Outstanding factors – no national system in place for community sampling. Acceptable position across local teams with ad hoc arrangements in place. Confirmed by MS as Duty Centre Director.
- 5.4 PC asked if assurance has been given that healthcare services are taking the patient travel history routinely. BM noted that CAS Alert being sent out this week references S.Korea on the list of countries and also the Cabinet Office are conducting “mystery shopper” exercise to test the system.
- 5.5 Question regarding the reactive style of comms and whether this will become more proactive. BM noted that currently it will remain reactive so as not to overemphasise the importance of the story.

6 Feedback from Government

- 6.1 No further development from SAGE or scientific advice to Government. Conversation regarding reassurance with senior ministers as well as feedback to NO.10 on a daily basis.
- 6.2 WHO will change to only reporting on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the update on Korea.
- 6.3 Potential case in UK and Slovakia not reported to Government level due to low risk.

7 New issues and actions not already covered

- 7.1 Revised CAS Alert due to go out today. Delayed on Friday due to technical issues.
- 7.2 Out of hours procedure for dissemination of CAS Alert needs revising and has been identified as a lesson for the future.
Action: NIS to investigate the CAS Alert procedure
- 7.3 Incident level will be reviewed on Friday with a view to downgrading.

8 Confirmation of further meetings (battle rhythm)

- 8.1 Next teleconference Friday 10.00am.

9 AOB

- 9.1 No other business.



MERS CoV Incident ACTION LIST

10 June 2015

RAG
STATUS:

Action completed



Not yet
due



Deadline
Passed



Ref.	Action	Owner	Deadline	Status	Confirmation of status
10 June 2015					
1.1	BM to pick up any issues for PHE Centres with Diana Grice following the meeting	BM	10/06/15		
6.2.3	BM to follow up with Richard Gleave regarding the assurance around sample transport for serological testing	BM	TBC		Sample transport solution confirmed
6.2.4	Assurance to be sent to incident director in reference to UK preparedness for NIS following clarification on contact tracing and sample transport	MZ NP	TBC		Sample transport solution confirmed and sample taking to go to unresolved issues group
7.4 (a)	CRT to produce SitRep	KR	10/06/15		
7.4 (b)	Send epi update today (10 th June)	NP	10/06/15		

Ref.	Action	Owner	Deadline	Status	Confirmation of status
12 June 2015					
4.2.5 (a)	Colindale to send Epi update to ERVIC11 for inclusion in update for No.10	NIS	Daily from 12/06/2015	Ongoing	
4.2.5 (b)	BM to produce update report for No.10	BM	Daily from 12/06/2015	Ongoing	
5.1	BM to provide assurance to CMO on UK preparedness	BM	15/06/15	Ongoing	Letter to be finalised 15/06/15
8.1	EP to add Mel Serotkin to distribution	EP	12/06/2015		
15 June 2015					
7.2	NIS to investigate the CAS Alert procedure	NIS	19/06/15		