Serious MERS Response Level Stands Down

The HKSAR Government has lowered the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) response level from "Serious" to "Alert", with effect from August 1, 2015 according to the latest risk assessment of MERS situation in Korea. The number of new cases occurring in Korea each day has declined significantly since late June. The last confirmed case was isolated in hospital on July 3. Although Korea is no longer as an affected area of MERS since August 1, 2015, please still be reminded to maintain the following preventive measures against MERS:

- Build up good body resistance, by having a healthy lifestyle with a proper diet, adequate exercises and rest;
- Maintain good ventilation;
- Cover nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing;
- Dispose of soiled tissue paper properly in a lidded rubbish bin;
- Wash hands thoroughly after sneezing or coughing;
- Avoid going to farms, barns and markets with camels;
- Avoid contact with animals, especially camels (including riding camels or participating in any activity involving contact with camels), birds, poultry or sick people during travel;
- Wash hands regularly before and after touching animals in case of visits to farms, barns or markets with camels;
- Avoid close contact with sick people, especially with those suffering from acute respiratory infections, and avoid visit to healthcare settings with MERS patients;
- Travellers should also adhere to food safety and hygiene rules such as avoiding consuming raw or uncooked animal products, including milk and meat, or foods which may be contaminated by animal secretions, excretions (such as urine) or products, unless they have been properly cooked, washed or peeled;
- If feeling unwell, put on a surgical mask and seek medical attention immediately;
- Before departure: postpone your trip until recovery;
- While overseas: inform hotel staff or tour leader;
- After returning home: during medical consultation, inform doctor of recent travel history.


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