

**DIRECTIVE AND ORDER
OF THE MARYLAND SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
TO REPORT MERS CASE INFORMATION AND
TO TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT TRANSMISSION OF MERS**

Whereas the World Health Organization (“WHO”) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) have issued health advisories concerning the spread of an infectious and/or contagious condition known as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (“MERS”), which is caused by the MERS-coronavirus (“MERS-CoV”);

Whereas MERS-CoV is capable of causing extensive loss of life or serious disability and therefore is a deadly agent as defined in § 18-901(c) of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Code;

Whereas prompt reporting of MERS cases and the proper use of infection control measures are required for effective control of MERS-CoV;

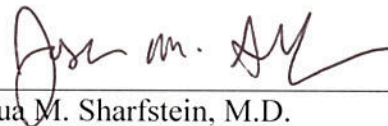
Whereas MERS can at present be medically contained by the Department and appropriate health care providers;

Now, therefore, I, Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, pursuant to §§ 2-104, 18-103(a), 18-904 and 18-905 of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Code, finding it necessary for the control of communicable disease, for the maintenance of an effective disease surveillance system, and for the investigation of actual or potential exposures to MERS-CoV, hereby order and direct as follows:

1. All health care providers, as defined in § 18-901(g) of the Health-General Article, and all nursing homes, as defined in § 19-1401(e) of the Health-General Article, and ambulatory care facilities, as defined in § 19-3B-01 of the Health-General Article, shall:
 - a. Become familiar with the current CDC case definition of MERS as set forth at the CDC MERS-CoV website at <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/case-def.html>;
 - b. Consult with the local health department for the jurisdiction in which the practitioner, provider, or facility is located for assistance with MERS case detection, classification, testing, and prevention, as necessary;
 - c. Submit immediate telephonic and written morbidity and other reports to the local health department for the jurisdiction in which the practitioner, provider, or facility is located;
 - d. Follow the current CDC infection prevention protocols as posted on the CDC website and take such additional infection control measures as are necessary to prevent person-to-person transmission of MERS;

- e. Educate and instruct a suspected MERS case on appropriate infection control measures to prevent transmission of MERS-CoV to others;
 - f. Not release a suspected MERS case until the immediate reporting requirements in section 2(c), above, and the education and instruction in section 2(e), above, have been completed and the local health department concurs with the release; and
 - g. Immediately notify the local health department for the jurisdiction in which the practitioner, provider, or facility is located by telephone of any suspected MERS case who, in the practitioner or provider's judgment, is unwilling or unable to comply with the instructions in section 2(e), above, for preventing transmission of MERS-CoV to others;
2. All Local Health Departments shall:
- a. Immediately notify the DHMH, Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, and Outbreak Response of any suspected MERS cases;
 - b. Determine, under CDC guidelines and in consultation with the DHMH Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response, which persons might be contacts of a suspected MERS case;
 - c. Provide support to suspected MERS cases and contacts of suspected MERS cases in complying with instructions for preventing transmission of MERS-CoV;
 - d. Notify the DHMH Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response at 410-767-6700 immediately if, in the local health department's judgment, an individual suspected of having MERS fails to comply with instructions for preventing transmission of MERS-CoV; and
 - e. Maintain the confidentiality of information collected pursuant to Section 1, above, as required by Title 4 and § 18-904(d) of the Health-General Article;
3. Any sheriff, deputy sheriff, or other law enforcement officer of the State or any subdivision shall assist with the enforcement of any portion of this directive and order if directed to do so, as anticipated in § 18-905(a)(3) of the Health-General Article.

THIS DIRECTIVE AND ORDER IS ISSUED UNDER MY HAND THIS 16 DAY OF JUNE, 2014, AND IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.



Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene