HIGHLIGHTS

- At the end of December 2019, a total of 2502 laboratory-confirmed cases of Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), including 861 associated deaths (case-fatality rate 34.4%) were reported globally; the majority of these cases were reported from Saudi Arabia (2106 cases, including 783 related deaths with a case-fatality rate of 37.2%).
- Since the last update was published, a total of eight new laboratory-confirmed cases of MERS were reported. Four cases were reported from Saudi Arabia with three associated deaths. One case was reported from the United Arab Emirates and a cluster of three cases was reported from Qatar. No infections were reported among health care workers this month.
- The demographic and epidemiological characteristics of reported cases do not show any significant difference or change when compared with the same corresponding periods between 2014 and 2019. The number of cases reported in this period was less than all other corresponding periods except for 2016.
- The age group of 50–59 year-olds is most at risk as secondary cases. The number of deaths is highest within the age group of 50–59 year-olds when they are primary cases and among 70–79 year-olds when they are secondary cases.

Summary

- 2502 laboratory-confirmed cases reported since April 2012
- 861 deaths reported since April 2012
- 12 countries reported cases since April 2012 in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Epidemiological characteristics of MERS cases reported globally between January–December 2014 and January–December 2019

- Number of cases reported globally from January–December 2014 to January–December 2019, showing no significant changes or differences except for 2016.
- The distribution of laboratory-confirmed cases between primary and secondary cases shows no significant change or difference between 2014 and 2019.
- The age group of 50–59 year-olds continues to be at the highest risk of acquiring infection as primary cases. The age group 30–39 year-olds is most at risk as secondary cases. The number of deaths is highest within the age group of 50–59 year-olds when they are primary cases and among 70–79 year-olds when they are secondary cases.

Characteristics of MERS cases reported from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, June 2012–December 2019

- Distribution of cases by type, age group, and gender shows no significant change or difference between 2012 and 2019.
- The percentage of cases reported from healthcare workers (HCW) is 19.1%.
- The number of cases reported from non-HCW is 80.9%.

Cases of MERS in healthcare workers reported from Saudi Arabia, Jan 2013–Dec 2019

- The percentage of cases reported from healthcare workers (HCW) is 19.1%.
- The number of cases reported from non-HCW is 80.9%.