



MERS-CoV/Avian Influenza Primary Care Algorithm

Algorithm for the assessment and initial management in primary care of returning travellers and visitors from countries* affected by Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) or avian influenza A (eg H5N1, H7N9, H10N8) presenting with febrile respiratory illness: recognition of a possible case and initial management

*High-risk areas as defined in PHE algorithms:

¹ MERS-CoV: [PHE MERS-CoV Case Algorithm](#)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mers-cov-public-health-investigation-and-management-of-possible-cases>

² Avian influenza H5N1: [PHE H5N1 Case Algorithm](#)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/358675/Case_management_of_suspected_human_case.pdf

³ Avian influenza H7N9 or H10N8: [PHE H7N9 Case Algorithm](#)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/358673/Investigation_and_management_of_possible_human_cases_of_avian_influenza_A_H7N9_flow_diagram_July_new.pdf

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Infection control procedures: If the patient mentions a febrile respiratory illness on arrival to the primary care facility, standard respiratory precautions are indicated to minimise contact/exposure to staff and other patients

Risk assessment	
For a suspect case patients must fulfil the conditions in both the boxes below:	
	MERS-CoV or avian influenza A (eg H5N1, H7N9, H10N8)
Clinical	A. Fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ AND B. Lower respiratory tract symptoms (cough or shortness of breath) or clinical signs of lower respiratory tract infection OR C. Other severe/life-threatening illness suggestive of an infectious process
Exposure	AND History of travel to, or residence in a high-risk area* for MERS-CoV or avian influenza A within two weeks of symptom onset (Note: two weeks has been chosen as the longest period, but for H5N1 the period is seven days, H7N9 10 days and MERS-CoV 14 days)

