



Round Table Report

2 February 2021

For restricted use

This report summarizes the ECDC daily roundtable discussion and provides update on threats detected and monitored by Epidemic Intelligence.

Active threats

COVID-19 associated with SARS-CoV-2 – multi-country (world) – 2019-2021

[Public Health England](#) published a document where they report the detection of an E484K mutation in eleven B.1.1.7 VOC 202012/01 sequences. This mutation was previously found in VOC 202012/02 B1.351 and VOC 202101/02 P1. [Studies](#) have shown that this mutation is known to cause reduced neutralisation by natural and vaccine-induced immunity.

Threats under monthly review

Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) – Multi-country

Sources: [ECDC MERS-CoV page](#), [WHO MERS-CoV](#), [ECDC factsheet for professionals](#), [Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health](#)

Update: Since the beginning of 2021 and as of 1 February 2021, no MERS-CoV cases have been reported by Saudi Arabian health authorities or by WHO.

Summary: Since the beginning of 2021 and as of 1 February 2021, no MERS-CoV cases have been reported by Saudi Arabian health authorities or by WHO.

Since April 2012 and as of 1 February 2021, 2 581 cases of MERS-CoV, including 936 deaths, have been reported by health authorities worldwide.

Assessment: Human cases of MERS-CoV continue to be reported in the Arabian Peninsula, particularly in Saudi Arabia. However, the number of new cases detected and reported through surveillance have dropped to lowest levels since 2014. The risk of sustained human-to-human transmission in Europe remains very low. The current MERS-CoV situation poses a low risk to the EU, as stated in an ECDC [rapid risk assessment](#) published on 29 August 2018, which also provides details on the last case reported in Europe.

ECDC published a technical report, '[Health emergency preparedness for imported cases of high-consequence infectious diseases](#)', in October 2019, which will be useful for EU Member States wanting to assess their level of preparedness for a disease such as MERS. ECDC also published '[Risk assessment guidelines for infectious diseases transmitted on aircraft \(RAGIDA\) – Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\)](#)' on 22 January 2020.

1/2

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Action: ECDC is monitoring this threat through its epidemic intelligence activities, and reports on a monthly basis.

Risk assessment under production

Joint ECDC and EFSA rapid outbreak assessment to be produced on *Salmonella* Enteritidis contamination in poultry products from Poland to be published 18 February 2021.

The Round Table Report contains information that could be considered sensitive or is still under verification. Its distribution is restricted to intended users only.

Participants

Senior Management: -

EI and Response Head of Section: -

Duty Officers:

24/7: -

Threat Detection: -

Rapid Assessment and Outbreaks: -

Communication: -

Representative of:

Epidemic Intelligence: -

Response: -

Vaccine Preventable Diseases: -

Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases: -

Food and Water-borne Diseases: -

Influenza: -

Microbiology Coordination: -