

2018

United Arab Emirates: MERS-CoV

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Khan, Sarmad Nawaz. "United Arab Emirates: MERS-CoV" (2018). *Global Public Health*.
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United Arab Emirates

MERS-CoV as a National Issue

Sarmad Nawaz Khan



Location:



United Arab Emirates is a federal absolute monarchy in Western Asia at the South East end of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, bordering Oman to the East and Saudi Arabia to the south, as well as sharing maritime borders with Qatar to the west and Iran to the north.

Population:

The current population of the UAE is 9,457,851. The ethnic group contains Emirati (11.32%), other Arab and Iranian nationalities (18%), South Asian nationalities (60%), and other expatriate nationalities include Westerners, East Asians and Africans (12%).

The major religion represented in the UAE is Islam (76%), followed by Christian (9%), and other Hindu and Buddhist (15%).

Political Structure:

It is a federation of hereditary absolute monarchies, governed by a Federal Supreme Council made up of seven Emirs, establishes federal policies and sanctions legislation. It also elects the UAE's president. Most council decisions are reached through a consensus of the emirates' rulers and leading families. Since the council meets four times a year, the UAE cabinet runs the day-to-day affairs of the federation. The president chooses the cabinet and members of the federal judiciary. All responsibilities not granted to the national government are reserved to Emirates.

Major Challenges:

Internal

The internal issues which the UAE are facing are some security and political issues. They are resolving their security issue in this way that each Emirate funds paramilitary and security forces that monitor the expatriate community, the military, and foreign soldiers. The United States will likely guarantee the federation's security of the UAE in the near term. The political issues have resolved by the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Shaykh Zayid al-Nahyan, who has used Abu Dhabi's wealth and his political skills to bridge the gap between 'tribal' and 'modern' forces within the federation.

External

The external challenges are in the field of business. They are managing through the economic recovery with emphasis on finding new sources of growth. However, MERS-CoV didn't effect much in UAE, but they are trying to prevent it by taking precautions and spreading awareness.

Public Health Issue:

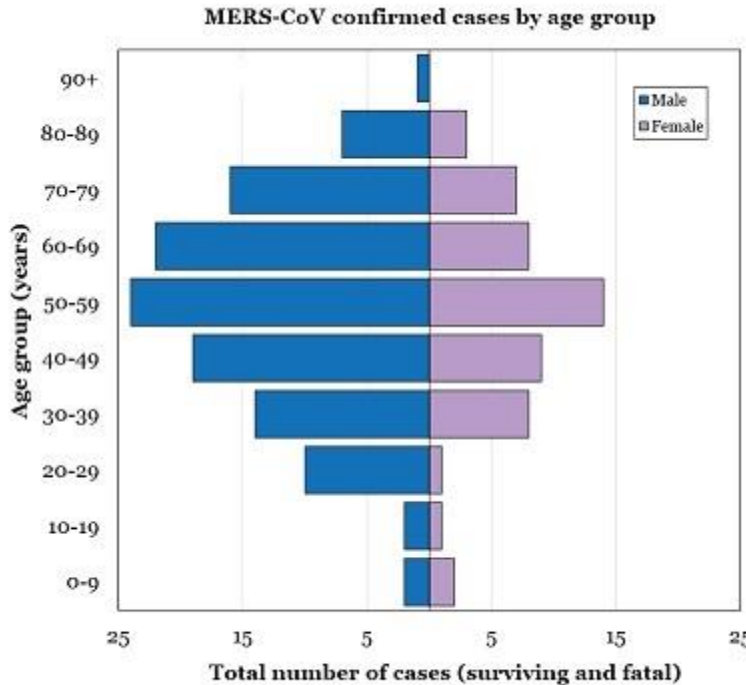
The public health problem faced by the UAE now a days is MERS. Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is a viral respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (MERS-CoV). It is a zoonotic virus, which means it is a virus that is transmitted between animals (like camels which are major part of causing) and people.

Most Affected Population:

The virus appears to cause more severe disease in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and people with chronic diseases such as renal diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic lung disease. Overall, the median age of MERS-CoV patients is 50 years and 64.5% of patients are male.

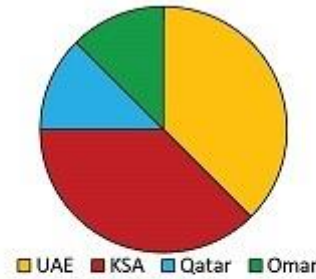
Frequency of Disease:

According to Gulf Co-operation Council, the mortality rate for people with the MERS virus is approximately 35%. This may be an overestimate, however, 80 cases were reported from 2013 to 2016 in the United Arab Emirates, but the actual rate for people in UAE is still not known.

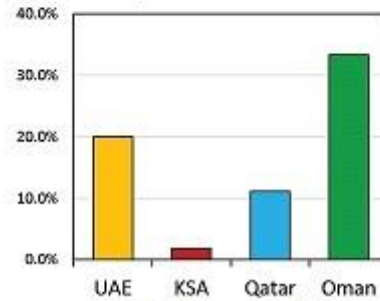


Mackay, (n.d.).

Camel mentions among MERS-CoV cases by site of acquisition. Total numbers



Camel mentions among MERS-CoV cases by site of acquisition. Proportion of cases at that site



Mackay, (n.d.).

Outcomes of the Disease:

A typical case includes fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Pneumonia is common, however, some people infected with MERS virus have been reported to be asymptomatic. Severe cases can include respiratory failure that requires mechanical ventilation and support in an intensive care unit.

Treatment for Disease:

No vaccine or specific treatment for MERS-CoV is currently available. Treatment is supportive and based on the person's clinical condition. My suggestion for the disease prevention is that people should wear face masks when they are near animals (camels), and use safety precautions. People should cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when they cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash. They should avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands. They should wash their hands properly, and help young children do the same. As there is no proper treatment available, so precautions should be taken as a safety measure. People should be properly aware of the disease and there should be awareness spread out more in the public

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