# Nature of Risk

## Assessment of Risk Before Preventative Measures

### MERS/Corona Virus

**Very Low**

MERS-Corona is considered a highly infective and serious viral illness. It starts similarly to the common cold, with a runny nose and mild sore throat. In some patients (especially those under two years of age, elderly patients, patients with cardio-pulmonary compromise, patients with low immunity, patients receiving immune-suppressive treatment) the virus will present itself with signs and symptoms of lower respiratory tract infection, such as severe cough, expectoration, very high fever, chest discomfort and shortness of breath, and fatigue with no energy.

**Origins:** Studies confirm that bats, rats and camels are reservoirs for corona viruses (this means these animals can carry the virus without being affected by it and can spread it through different ways such as biting, urinating on vegetables and fruits in farms, etc.). Eating contaminated fruits and vegetables that have not been properly washed may contribute to the spreading of the virus.

Exposure to camel saliva, eating of undercooked camel meat or drinking of raw camel milk may also lead to spreading of the corona virus (if the camel is a carrier).

The Jordanian Ministry of Health has screened camel farms in the south of Jordan and has not detected any corona virus carriers among camels.

**Advance Action/Cautions**

The same routine instructions for any respiratory disease are applicable:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, and help young children do the same.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then dispose of the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact, such as kissing, sharing cups or sharing eating utensils with infected people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs.
- Patting camels during the conference is discouraged.

**Assessment of Risk After Advance Action**

**Very Low**

If a patient is having cold symptoms plus fever and signs and symptoms of pneumonia, refer to a hospital for proper care. The diagnostic test is nasal swab PCR test. There is no treatment or vaccine yet. Treatment is limited to dealing with the symptoms only, no antibiotic or anti-viral is known to be effective at this point.