

United States Embassy, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Message for U.S. citizens
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus Threat

June 8, 2014

Since 2012, an illness known as MERS-CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus) has been reported in the Arabian Peninsula and neighboring countries; many of the cases have been in health care workers who were treating patients with MERS. Additional information about MERS can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS/MERS/INDEX.HTML>. Since many from Bangladesh travel to this region (including for Hajj), travelers should be aware.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published travel advice on MERS for persons on pilgrimages: <http://www.who.int/ith/updates/20130725/en/> and additional information may be found on the WHO website regarding Coronavirus infections: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/. The WHO does not recommend the application of any travel or trade restrictions or entry screening at this time.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also published guidance for travelers to countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula, including specific recommendations for health care workers: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-saudi-arabia-qatar>. Healthcare providers should be familiar with infection control recommendations for patients with MERS: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html>.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to, or residing in, Bangladesh enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#), which gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the [State Department's website](#), where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Worldwide Cautions. Read the [Country Specific Information for Bangladesh](#). For additional information, refer to the State Department's web site entitled [A Safe Trip Abroad](#).

Contact the Department of State for up-to-date information on travel restrictions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) at and [Facebook](#) at, and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

Emergency services for U.S. citizens are available at all times. [U.S. Embassy Dhaka](#) is located at Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka, Bangladesh 1212, and by telephone at (88) (02) 882-3805 during regular hours. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (88) (02) 885-5500. For after-hours emergency services, please press "0" and ask for the duty officer. You may be asked to explain your emergency; this is to better direct your call.

American Citizens Services
U.S. Embassy
Dhaka, Bangladesh