

Saudi detects six new SARS-like cases

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Saudi Arabia has detected six new cases of the deadly coronavirus, the health ministry said, raising the number of people infected from the SARS-like virus in the kingdom to 30, half of them fatalities.

Two of the infections were announced on Tuesday, a day after the ministry said four cases had been registered in Eastern Province, which has been gripped by panic after it was shown to be home to most of the cases in the kingdom.

"Two new confirmed infections were registered in Eastern Province," it said on its website, adding that those infected were nurses and "are receiving needed treatment and medical care".

The ministry had said late Monday that among the four other new cases, "one of the people has recovered and discharged, while the other three are still being treated".

Saudi [health authorities](#) are now receiving advice from specialists from US and Canadian universities, the ministry added.

Health Minister Abdullah al-Rabia had said on Sunday that 24 people have contracted the [coronavirus](#), and that 15 of them have died.

The [World Health Organisation](#) had said earlier that 34 cases have been reported worldwide since the virus was first detected in September 2012, with 18 of the victims dying.

While the virus has been deadliest in Saudi Arabia, cases have also been reported in Jordan, Germany, Britain and France where two patients are now in hospital in the northern city of Lille.

The virus is a cousin of [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome](#) (SARS), which triggered a scare 10 years ago when it erupted in east Asia, leaping to humans from animal hosts and eventually killing some 800 people.

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