

# Saudi reports two new cases of MERS virus

November 9 2013

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Saudi Arabia has recorded two new cases of the MERS virus, the health ministry said on Saturday, a day after authorities in neighbouring Qatar reported one new case.

Saudi Arabia accounts for a full 52 of 127 deaths worldwide from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) so far, while Qatar accounts for two.

The two new cases were both Saudis, the ministry reported on its website, one a 72-year-old in Riyadh with pre-existing health problems, the other a 43-year-old in the commercial capital Jeddah.

The death in Qatar was of a 48-year-old foreign resident who had also been suffering from chronic illness, [health authorities](#) said.

MERS is considered a deadlier but less-transmissible cousin of the SARS virus that erupted in Asia in 2003 and infected 8,273 people, nine percent of whom died, and sowed economic chaos.

Since MERS first appeared in September last year, virtually of the deaths have been in the Gulf or among people who had recently travelled there.

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