

New MERS death raises Saudi toll to 57

December 26 2013

Saudi health authorities announced Thursday a new MERS death, bringing to 57 the number of people killed by the coronavirus in the country with the most fatalities.

The health ministry said in a statement on its website that a 73-year-old Saudi man, who suffered from [chronic illnesses](#), died in the capital Riyadh after he contracted MERS.

Authorities also registered four other new MERS cases in Riyadh.

Two of them are Saudis, one is a 57-year-old who is chronically ill and is in [intensive care](#) and the other is a 27-year-old medic.

The other two people infected are foreign medics, a 43-year-old woman and a 35-year-old man.

The ministry said 141 cases have been reported in the country since the virus appeared more than a year ago.

Experts are struggling to understand the disease, for which there is no vaccine.

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.

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