# Louisville Metro EMS gets first MERS-CoV triggers

FirstWatch has recently developed our first MERS-CoV near-real-time triggers.

Earlier this week, Dr. Neal Richmond, Chief Executive Officer and Medical Director for Louisville Metro EMS in Kentucky asked us to help develop MERS triggers as part of their preparation for the Kentucky Derby (May 2 - 4, 2014). The Kentucky Derby is an international event with attendees from all over the world, including from countries with MERS cases.

Although when he asked us to help develop our first MERS triggers there were no announced cases of MERS-CoV in the United States, in an abundance of caution, and a desire to be as prepared as possible, Dr. Richmond asked us to create our first MERS-related FirstWatch triggers for them.  Working together with Dr. Richmond and our Medical Director, Dr. Alex Garza, we developed and deployed three MERS triggers that monitor their Zoll RescueNet electronic Patient Care Records (ePCR) data in near-real-time for MERS criteria as shown below.

The first trigger automatically alerts EMS and Public Health officials to any patient care record that meets MERS criteria anywhere in their service area and will remain active until MERS is no longer a threat. These criteria are based on the CDC's criteria for patients that should be investigated for MERS-CoV (known as 'Patients Under Investigation' or PUI), adapted to work with EMS patient records:

- Patients should have a documented primary or secondary paramedic impression that could indicate pneumonia or severe respiratory problem;

  AND

- have or may have a fever;

  AND

- have recently travelled abroad, with a specific emphasis on those countries identified by the CDC as having MERS patients.

The other two triggers are to monitor very specific geographic areas related to the Derby, including the racing venue, the primary hotel, and both airports.  One is a trigger that uses the same criteria as the MERS trigger described above but only for those geographic areas. The other trigger displays all EMS calls for those geographic areas, which is used to help refine the MERS triggers, and provide situational awareness of all EMS activity in Derby-related areas of the community. After the Derby ends, these triggers will be archived.

The combination of these three triggers allows for near-real-time monitoring by EMS and Public Health, not only for patients that should be investigated for MERS-CoV, but also provides a level of situational awareness they have not had for the Derby in the past.

*FirstWatch customers interested in MERS-CoV triggers please email support@firstwatch.net.*
*Others who don't have FirstWatch, please contact sales@firstwatch.net.*

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