

Kane County Health Department, Kane County, Illinois
3-17-03

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with the World Health Organization in investigating an outbreak of a severe acute respiratory syndrome of unknown etiology. So far, 150 cases have been reported. Cases have been reported in China (Guangdong Province and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), Vietnam, Canada, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. This disease has been characterized by secondary transmission in the health care setting and within households. Most of the identified index cases have traveled to China and a few have had no reported contact with health care workers or sick patients while in China. Currently, there has been no confirmed case of SARS in the United States.

Current Case Definition:

Clinicians should be alert for patients with onset of illness after February 1, 2003 with:

- Fever 100.4 F (>38° C)

AND

- One or more signs or symptoms of respiratory illness including cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, hypoxia, radiographic findings of pneumonia, or respiratory distress

AND

One or more of the following:

- History of travel to Hong Kong or Guangdong Province in People's Republic of China, or Hanoi, Vietnam, within seven days of symptom onset
- Close contact with persons with respiratory illness having the above travel history. Close contact includes having cared for, having lived with, or having had direct contact with respiratory secretions and body fluids of a person with SARS.

Travel Advisory:

The Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, issued emergency guidance for travelers and airlines. All travelers and airline staff should be aware of the signs and symptoms of SARS. Any traveler or aircrew experiencing these symptoms should seek medical care immediately and contact the Kane County Health Department. Such traveler is advised against traveling while ill.

Reporting Guidelines

To report a suspected case or for more information please call the Kane County Department at (630) 208-3801

Further information on this is available on the CDC website at www.cdc.gov Updates on these and other current health issues are available on the Kane County Health Department website.