

## Kane County Health Department, Kane County, IL Health Alerts April 16, 2003

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced today (April 16) that a new pathogen, a member of the coronavirus family has been **confirmed** to be the cause of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). Prior to SARS, this virus was never before seen in humans. With the successful identification of the agent that is the cause of SARS, experts can now focus on development of treatments and eventually vaccination.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is now reporting *fifteen* Illinois residents who meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definition of a suspected case of (SARS). There is currently no evidence of community transmission among these cases or other cases within the United States. **There are no suspect cases in Kane County**

**The CDC case definition for a suspect case of SARS has been updated (April 10) to the following: (*changes to the definition are italicized*)**

Respiratory illness of unknown etiology with onset since February 1, 2003, and the following criteria:

- Measured temperature greater than 100.4° F (greater than 38° C) **AND**
- One or more clinical findings of respiratory illness (e.g. cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, hypoxia, or radiographic findings of either pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome) **AND**
- Travel† within 10 days of onset of symptoms to an area with documented or suspected community transmission\*\* of SARS (see list below; excludes areas with secondary cases limited to healthcare workers or direct household contacts)

**OR**

Close contact\* within 10 days of onset of symptoms with either a person with a respiratory illness who traveled to a SARS area or a person known to be a suspect SARS case.

† **Travel** includes transit in an airport in an area with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS

\* **Close contact** is defined as having cared for, having lived with, or having direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a patient known to be suspect SARS case.

\*\* **Areas with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS:** Peoples' Republic of China (i.e., mainland China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region); Hanoi, Vietnam; and Singapore

**For more information, visit this [CDC SARS web site](#).**

REPORTING GUIDELINES: To report a suspected case, or for more information, please call the Kane County Health Department at 630-208-3801.