

**Update 4/4/03 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
Kane County Health Department**

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is now reporting five Illinois residents who meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) definition of a suspected case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

There are no suspect cases in Kane County.

The CDC case definition for a suspect case of SARS has been updated to the following:

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

- Measured temperature 100.5 F (>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
- Travel within 10 days of onset of symptoms to an area with documented or suspected community transmission* of SARS

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.

***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 a 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. This list excludes areas with secondary cases limited to healthcare workers or direct household contacts.

Scientists at CDC and other laboratories have identified a previously unrecognized virus called coronavirus in patients with SARS. This is currently the leading hypothesis for the cause of SARS. Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that are a common cause of mild to moderate upper-respiratory illness in humans. Other viruses are still under investigation as potential causes of SARS.

The incubation period (time that may elapse between exposure to the SARS and appearance of symptoms) is 2-10 days. If you were potentially exposed by virtue of being in a geographical area in which community transmission has occurred or if you had close contact with a suspect SARS case, you should monitor your symptoms daily and seek medical attention if symptoms for SARS appear. Share your travel history or information regarding exposure to a suspect SARS case with your medical provider.

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.