

UCSF Guidelines for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
UPDATE: January 12, 2004

This update is intended to provide additional information to UCSF faculty, staff and students concerning SARS, and to supplement the UCSF Workplace Guidelines for SARS, issued May 27, 2003. This update is the result of collaboration of the UCSF Infection Control Advisory Board, Employee Health Services, the Communicable Disease Prevention program, and UCSF Campus and UCSF Medical Center Human Resources.

A researcher in Taiwan was confirmed to have SARS on December 17, 2003. His laboratory work is suspected as the source of infection. Secondary cases (transmission to other individuals) have not been identified. This is the second SARS-CoV infection of a SARS researcher since the case in Singapore last September. On January 5, 2004, there was laboratory confirmation of SARS in a 32 year-old male resident of Guangzhou in Guangdong Province, China. The patient has fully recovered and there have been no secondary cases.

CDC Travel Recommendations, Advisories, and Alerts

The University of California is engaged in a wide range of activities and programs that involve international travel by students, faculty, staff and visitors. In the course of these endeavors the University remains committed to protecting the public health and the safety and well being of members of our campus communities. **As of January 7, 2004, the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have not issued alerts or advisories for travel to China. There is no reported evidence of person-to-person transmission (surveillance level 0). However, travelers should stay informed about current travel alerts and advisories. Travel advisories are available at the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel_advice.htm.**

Preparing for the Reemergence of SARS

While current disease activity has been designated SARS surveillance level 0, the California Department of Health Services is interested in learning about any patient that meets the following criteria: patients hospitalized with radiographically confirmed pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome, without identifiable etiology after 72 hours of hospitalization AND who have at least one of the following three risk factors:

***Travel in the 10 days prior to illness onset to mainland China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan, or close contact with an ill traveler who had recently returned from one of these three countries. (SARS is more likely to reemerge in mainland China, where the outbreak originated last year. Taiwan and Hong Kong are included due to high volume of travelers from mainland China).**

***Employment in an occupation associated with a risk for SARS-CoV exposure (e.g., a health care worker with direct patient contact, worker in a laboratory that contains SARS-CoV).**

***The patient is part of a cluster of greater than or equal to 2 group members in close contact (e.g., families, travel groups, social contacts) who develop, within 10 days of each other, atypical pneumonia without an alternative diagnosis.**

Please contact Infection Control for any patient that meets the above criteria (476-5793). Please contact the Communicable Disease Prevention program for any campus employee or student that meets the above criteria (514-3861).

In the event that SARS cases reemerge, the Medical Center has developed policies and guidelines for students, faculty, and staff who may be exposed and/or symptomatic following contact with suspected or probable SARS patients. Adherence to these policies is mandatory. The UCSF workplace guidelines and Infection Control precautions can be found at:

http://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/SARS_Links_and_Info/sars_links_and_info.html. Information for campus is also available at <http://cdp.ucsf.edu>.

Faculty and Staff Who Have an Exposure to SARS

In the unlikely event that a health-care worker has an unprotected high-risk exposure to SARS, that individual should be excluded from duty for 10 days following the exposure. Unprotected high-risk exposure is defined as presence in the same room as probable SARS patient during a high-risk aerosol-generating procedure or event **AND** where recommended infection control precautions are either absent or breached. Aerosol-generating procedures or events include aerosolized medication treatments, diagnostic sputum induction, bronchoscopy, endotracheal intubation, airway suctioning, and close facial contact during a coughing paroxysm.

In the unusual event that campus faculty, staff or students are exposed to a SARS patient while abroad, it is essential that you contact the appropriate UCSF authority (see table below) when you return to the United States before entering the workplace or classroom.

If you have sustained such an exposure, it is critical that you report immediately any signs or symptoms that develop within 10 days of your return to this country. Should fever or respiratory symptoms occur, you should avoid contact with others, stay at home, and notify the designated representative (see table below) to make arrangements for screening and assessment.

Faculty and Staff Who Have A Diagnosis of SARS

As stated in previous UCSF guidelines, faculty and staff who have been off work with a diagnosis of SARS, or students who have been out of the classroom with a diagnosis of

SARS are required to remain off work or out of class for 10 days after resolution of the symptoms and must be cleared by their personal care provider and the designated UCSF representative before returning to the UCSF community (see following table).

Contact Information For Designated Medical Center and Campus Health Care Representatives

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Medical Center Employees	Triage Nurse, Employee Health	415 885-7580
Campus faculty and employees or Campus faculty with students who meet SARS criteria	Communicable Disease Prevention Program	415-514-3861 cdp@cdp.ucsf.edu
Students	Student Health Services	415-476-1281
Medical Center and Campus managers with staff who meet SARS criteria	Labor and Employee Relations Analyst	415-476-3905 (for campus) or 415-353-4689 (for medical center).

For More Information:

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) Hotline is: (888)-246-2675 Monday-Friday 8am-11pm (EST) or Saturday-Sunday 10am-8pm (EST) or the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars>. An updated version of the CDC guidance document is found at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/guidance>