

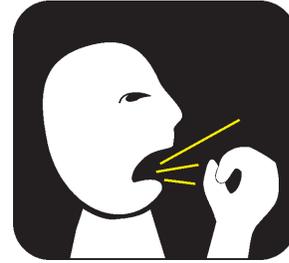
# SARS FactSheet

HS03-007C (4-09)

## Interim guidelines about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) for Persons in the General Workplace Environment

SARS is an infectious illness that appears to spread primarily by close person-to-person contact, such as in situations in which persons have cared for, lived with, or had direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a person known to be a suspected SARS case. Potential ways in which infections can be transmitted by close contact include touching the skin of other persons or objects that become contaminated with infectious droplets and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Workers, who in the last 10 days have traveled to a known SARS area, or have had close contact with a co-worker or family member with suspected or probable SARS, could be at increased risk of developing SARS and should be vigilant for the development of fever (greater than 100.4° F) or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough or difficulty breathing). If these symptoms develop you should not go to work, school, or other public areas but should seek evaluation by a health-care provider and practice infection control precautions recommended for the home or residential setting; be sure to contact your health-care provider beforehand to let them know you may have been exposed to SARS so arrangements can be made, as necessary, to prevent transmission to others in the healthcare setting. For more information about the signs and symptoms of SARS, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars>. More detailed guidance on management of symptomatic



persons who may have been exposed to SARS, such as how long you should avoid public areas, is available at the exposure management page on the CDC website.

As with other infectious illnesses, one of the most important and appropriate preventive practices is careful and frequent hand hygiene. **Cleaning your hands often using either soap and water or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizers, removes potentially infectious materials from your skin and helps prevent disease transmission.**

The routine use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as respirators, gloves, or using surgical masks for protection against SARS exposure is currently not recommended.

### To the Health Care Professional:

If you suspect that a patient may have SARS, please contact your city, county, or state health department (see <http://www.cdc.gov> or call the CDC Emergency Operations Center 770-488-7100).

If you have questions or desire additional information, please contact your city, county, or state health department, health care provider or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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The Texas Department of Insurance,  
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