

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome – Public Health Update #3

April 18, 2003

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will begin using the World Health Organization case definition of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) to identify “probable” cases of the disease. Previously the CDC had been using a looser case definition to identify “suspect” cases of the illness.

A suspect case is defined as someone with a temperature greater than 100.4 F, a respiratory symptom such as cough, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, and travel to an area with documented cases of the illness, or contact with a SARS patient. A probable case also has X-ray evidence of pneumonia or respiratory distress syndrome.

To date, one suspect case of SARS has been identified in Clark County. The person was not seriously ill and did not require hospitalization.

CDC is currently advising persons planning elective or nonessential travel to Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, China; and Hanoi, Vietnam, that they may wish to postpone their trips until further notice.

The Clark County Health District has sent advisory information to local physicians, hospitals, urgent care centers and emergency medical service providers. For additional information and up-to-date advisories link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention site at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>

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