



SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Interim Guidelines about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) for Airline Clean-Up Crew Members

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is tracking reports of outbreaks of a respiratory illness called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). Because the outbreak has initially affected international travelers who have recently visited mainland China; Hong Kong; Singapore; and Hanoi, Vietnam, CDC issued a travel advisory for people traveling from those areas (URL: www.cdc.gov/travel/other/acute_resp_syn_multi.htm). You can learn more about SARS from the World Health Organization at www.who.int/csr/sars/en/. These websites are updated as soon as new information is learned.

The illness appears to spread mainly by close contact with someone who is ill. For example, an ill patient may spread SARS to a healthcare worker or to a member of his or her family. There is no evidence that the infection is spread through casual contact in large groups of people or through contact with objects.

Clean-up crews do not need to wear masks and gowns to protect themselves against SARS. Safety measures already in use—washing hands, wearing gloves while working with cleaning fluids in lavatories—should be enough. Crews cleaning up after a flight that had a passenger suspected of having SARS should wear disposable gloves. As with all infectious illnesses, the best way to avoid infection is careful hand hygiene. You should wash your hands frequently with soap and water. If soap and water are not available and your hands do not look dirty, you can use alcohol-based hand rubs instead.

If you become ill, you may wish to see your healthcare provider about your symptoms.

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars or call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (Español), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY)

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