

SARS Provincial Operations Centre

Directive 03-01
April 3, 2003, 11:10 a.m.

Directives to all Ontario Community Health Centres

To contain the spread of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care directs that all Community Health Centres in the Ontario area must undertake the following procedures **effective immediately**:

Community Health Centre Screening

1. Restrict public access to the CHC to one entrance.
2. Establish a plan for screening everyone wanting to enter the CHC. This includes clients, staff, visitors, interpreters and family. Non-essential visits to the CHC should be limited.
3. Use the SARS Screening Tool (dated April 2, 2003 attached) to determine whether clients may freely enter the centre.
4. Those who pass the screening tool may enter the CHC and attend their planned visit or program. Clients and visitors must wash their hands upon arrival with soap and water, or a waterless hand agent.
5. CHC management of clients based on Risk Assessment as per SARS Screening Tool:
 - a) For clients who have passed the SARS Screening Tool: Routine Practices for ambulatory care may be used on:
 - i. No SARS symptom(s), no risk factor exposure.
 - ii. SARS symptom(s), no risk factor exposure
 - iii. No SARS symptom(s) and the only risk factor is travel to an endemic area. Counsel the client to monitor for symptoms for 10 days from the time they left the endemic area.

- b) For clients who failed Section A of the SARS Screening Tool, quarantine and notify Public Health. If further medical care is required, refer client to SARS Assessment Centre or an Emergency Department.
- c) For clients who failed the SARS Screening Tool on the basis of a “yes” answer in two of three of Sections B, C, D:
 - i. A surgical mask, or equivalent must be placed on the client unless medically contraindicated.
 - ii. The client must be triaged immediately to a separate assessment area, preferably a private room.
 - iii. Staff with direct contact must wear an N95 mask, disposable gown, gloves and protective eye wear all times while caring for the client. A medical assessment should be performed.

On the basis of the medical assessment:

- i. If SARS is not suspected and no further care is required - discharge home.
- ii. If SARS is not suspected, and further medical care is required- follow routine practices.
- iii. If SARS is suspected - immediately refer to SARS assessment centre, or Emergency Department for further assessment and follow up. Public Health must be notified.

6. Management of Suspect or Probable SARS Clients in the CHC Setting

If the above screening strategy is followed, it will be unusual for a CHC to encounter a client with SARS. In the event this does occur however, the following should be followed.

- a) Disposable medical equipment should be used if possible. All other medical equipment should be disinfected prior to reuse.
- b) Once the client has left the office, the room used by client should not be used until all surfaces are thoroughly disinfected.
- c) Masks, gloves and disposable gowns must be removed in the client’s room and discarded with routine waste.
- d) Goggles must be washed in soap and water after use.
- e) If a suspect or probable SARS client waited in the waiting room, all surfaces must be disinfected and magazines and toys discarded.

Disinfectants that can be used include phenolics, quaternary ammonium compounds, and 1/100 dilution of household bleach.

Staff screening

1. Inform staff that if they are experiencing symptoms of SARS including:
 - a) Headache, malaise, myalgia
 - b) Fever (>38 degrees Celsius)
 - c) One or more respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
 - d) One or more of the following:
 - i. Close contact with a probable case
 - ii. Recent history of travel (within 10 days to Asia, especially in areas reporting cases of SARS)

They should NOT come to work. They should call their family physician or Telehealth to determine the best course of action.

Original signed by
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Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) SCREENING TOOL For Ontario Healthcare Settings

This screening tool is to be used by all Ontario healthcare settings.
It must be completed by all persons entering this facility.

SECTION A:		
Have you had unprotected contact with a person with SARS in the last 10 days?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes → Quarantine applies, notify Public Health
OR		
Have you been to a hospital closed due to SARS?		

SECTION B:		
Have you been to China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Singapore or Taiwan in the last 10 days?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

SECTION C: Are you experiencing <u>any</u> of the following symptoms?		
Myalgia (muscle aches)	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
OR		
Malaise (severe fatigue or unwell)		
OR		
Severe headache (worse than usual)		
OR		
Cough (onset within 7 days)		
OR		
Shortness of Breath (worse than what is normal for you)		

SECTION D: Please record the temperature NOW.		
Temperature	°C	(Is the temperature at OR above 38°C?)
		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

IF 2 OR MORE OF SECTIONS B, C or D ARE ANSWERED "YES", THEN THE PERSON FAILS THE SCREENING TOOL AND MEDICAL EVALUATION IS REQUIRED.		
<input type="checkbox"/> PASS <input type="checkbox"/> FAIL		

Interviewee: Name:	Signature:	Date:
Interviewer: Name:	Signature:	Date: