



## **SARS Provincial Operations Centre**

April 5, 2003

### **FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER**

As a result of the recognized overlap in clinical and radiological findings between SARS and other clinical conditions and in an effort to better identify patients who may have died as a result of SARS or while infected with the SARS virus, hospitals in the GTA should, effective immediately and retroactive to March 14, 2003 report the deaths of all patients who appear to have died as a result of (or while diagnosed with);

1. Congestive heart failure,
2. Pneumonia (typical or atypical),
3. Respiratory failure,
4. Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome

to the Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC). The coroner will review the clinical information available and make a decision as to whether the case will be accepted for a coroner's investigation.

Hospitals should refer these cases to the Dispatch Office of the OCC at (416) 314-4100.

*Original signed by*

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Acting Chief Coroner