

**Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)  
Case Definitions (Health Canada and Ontario)**

**Case definitions and related recommendations are subject to revision as future  
epidemiological/laboratory information becomes available.**

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgsp/ssp/sars-sras/sarscasedef-0604\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgsp/ssp/sars-sras/sarscasedef-0604_e.html)

**Suspect case:**

A person presenting with:

- Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius),

**AND**

- Cough or breathing difficulty,

**AND**

One or more of the following exposures during the 10 days prior to the onset of symptoms:

- Close contact<sup>1</sup> with a person who is a suspect or probable case,
- Recent travel to an “Area with recent local transmission” of SARS outside of Canada
- Recent travel or visit to an identified setting in Canada where exposure to SARS may have occurred (e.g. hospital [including any hospital with an occupied SARS unit], household, workplace, school etc.)\* This includes inpatients, employees or visitors to an institution if the exposure setting is an institution.

**OR**

A person with unexplained acute respiratory illness resulting in death after 1 November 2002, but on whom no autopsy has been performed

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<sup>1</sup> Close contact means having cared for, lived with or had face-to-face (within one metre) contact with, or having had direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a person with SARS.

## AND

One or more of the following exposures during the 10 days prior to the onset of symptoms:

- Close contact<sup>1</sup> with a person who is a suspect or probable case,
- Recent travel to an “Area with recent local transmission” of SARS outside of Canada
- Recent travel or visit to an identified setting in Canada where exposure to SARS may have occurred (e.g. hospital [including any hospital with an occupied SARS unit], household, workplace, school etc.). This includes inpatients, employees or visitors to an institution if the exposure setting is an institution.

Close contact means having cared for, lived with or had face-to-face (within one metre) contact with, or having had direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a person with SARS.

\* The list of potential SARS exposure sites in Ontario can be obtained at the following address:

[www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu\\_03/hu\\_sars.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_03/hu_sars.html)

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**Probable Case:**

A suspect case with radiographic evidence of infiltrates consistent with pneumonia or respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) on chest x-ray (CXR).

**OR**

A suspect case with autopsy findings consistent with the pathology of RDS without an identifiable cause.

**Exclusion Criteria**

A suspect or probable case should be excluded if an alternate diagnosis can fully explain their illness.

**Comments:**

- In addition to fever and cough or breathing difficulty, SARS may be associated with other symptoms including: headache, myalgia, loss of appetite, malaise, confusion, rash and diarrhoea.

<b>Areas outside Canada with recent Local Transmission</b>
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For updates see <a href="http://www.who.int/csr/sarsareas">http://www.who.int/csr/sarsareas</a>
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**Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)  
Definition of Persons Under Investigation (Ontario)**

**Case definitions and related recommendations are subject to revision as future epidemiological/laboratory information becomes available.**

[http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/sars-sras/sars-pui\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/sars-sras/sars-pui_e.html)

**Persons Under Investigation (PUI) (Ontario)**

A person presenting with:

- Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius),

**OR**

- One or more of chills, rigors, malaise, myalgia or headache,

**AND**

One or more of the following exposures during the 10 days prior to the onset of symptoms:

- Close contact<sup>1</sup> with a person who is a suspect or probable case,
- Recent travel to an “Area with recent local transmission” of SARS outside of Canada
- Recent travel or visit to an identified setting in Canada where exposure to SARS may have occurred (e.g. hospital [including any hospital with an occupied SARS unit], household, workplace, school etc.). This includes inpatients, employees or visitors to an institution if the exposure setting is an institution.

**AND**

- No other known cause of current illness.

**Areas outside Canada with recent Local Transmission**

For updates see <http://www.who.int/csr/sarsareas>

<sup>1</sup> Close contact means having cared for, lived with or had face-to-face (within one metre) contact with, or having had direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a person with SARS.