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Subject PRO/EDR> SARS - worldwide (160): cases

SARS - WORLDWIDE (160): CASES

A ProMED-mail post

<<http://www.promedmail.org>>

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International Society for Infectious Diseases
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** NO NEWLY REPORTED PROBABLE CASES WORLDWIDE**

Date: 1 Jul 2003

From: ProMED-mail <promed@promedmail.org>

Source: WHO SARS website

<http://www.who.int/csr/sars/country/2003_07_01/en/>

[According to the WHO daily summary of reported cases, there were no reports of probable cases of SARS worldwide for 27 Jun 2003. As of the time of production of the daily summary table <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/country/2003_06_27/en/>) there was a cumulative total of 8445 probable cases with 810 deaths attributable to SARS reported. This is a net decrease of 2 cases from yesterday's report. This decrease is due to the exclusion of 2 cases by Brazil. In the past 24 hours there was one new death attributable to SARS reported from Canada (and reported in yesterday's ProMED-mail SARS update).

As a reminder, the most recent date of onset of probable cases of SARS are 15 Jun 2003 in Taiwan, and 12 Jun 2003 in Canada, 16 and 19 days ago respectively. In 4 days, 2 incubation periods (20 days) will have passed since the date of onset of the last reported probable case of SARS worldwide. ProMED-mail will continue to cover new events as they occur with respect to SARS. - Mod.MPP]

[ProMED-mail thanks to Marianne Hopp <mjhopp12@yahoo.com> for continued monitoring of WHO reports - Mod.MPP]

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/2003_07_01/en/>

WHO Update 92 - Chronology of travel recommendations, areas with local transmission 1 Jul 2003

If no unexpected events occur, the last two areas in the world - Toronto and Taiwan - to have experienced local transmission of SARS will be declared later this week to have broken the chain of person-to-person transmission. This achievement will mean that the SARS coronavirus is no longer thought to be circulating in the human population.

From the outset, WHO's objective in combating SARS has been to seal off

opportunities for the disease to become established in its new human host. Interruption of human transmission will be a milestone on the way to achieving this goal.

However, scientists cannot at present guarantee that SARS has been vanquished, as questions remain about the origins of the virus and its possible seasonal occurrence. In addition, transmission may be occurring somewhere in the world at such a low level as to defy detection.

In line with the WHO objective, recommendations to postpone travel to designated areas were periodically issued. Evidence that SARS was being exported from areas with local transmission was of particular concern, as this contributed to further international spread and created a heavy burden in terms of isolation and infection control, contact tracing, and quarantine.

The list of areas with recent local transmission was initially developed to support the case definitions of suspect and probable cases, as both definitions depend on a history of close contact with a SARS patient. Application of the case definitions required knowledge of areas where the virus was spreading. Inclusion on the list also provided the basis for recommended exit screening of all departing passengers as a measure for preventing further international spread.

The chronology below provides a record of travel recommendations issued by WHO and of changes in the status of local transmission.

Background

12 Mar 2003: WHO issues first global alert to cases of atypical pneumonia rapidly spreading among hospital staff.

15 Mar 2003: WHO issues first emergency travel advisory, calling on all travellers to be aware of the main symptoms and signs of SARS. The disease appears to be spreading along the routes of international air travel.

24 Mar 2003: Hong Kong officials report 9 cases of atypical pneumonia among members of a tour group that travelled together on 2 flights, raising the possibility of in-flight transmission. Subsequent investigations revealed that one infected passenger, on a 15 Mar 2003 flight from Hong Kong to Beijing, may have infected 22 fellow passengers and 2 flight attendants.

25 Mar 2003: WHO reminds travellers to remain alert, but sees no need for travel restrictions to any destinations. Most new cases are being quickly identified and immediately isolated, thus reducing opportunities for transmission outside confined areas, such as the health care setting.

27 Mar 2003: WHO recommends exit screening of air passengers departing from areas where transmission is known to be occurring in local chains. No cases of suspected in-flight transmission are reported following this date.

31 Mar 2003: A large cluster of almost simultaneous cases, linked to the Amoy Gardens housing estate in Hong Kong, raises the possibility of an environmental source of infection and provides strong evidence that SARS has moved out of the hospital setting and into the community at large. In addition, several areas link their first imported cases to a history of travel in Guangdong or Hong Kong. These events set the stage for the first travel recommendations.

Travel recommendations (postpone all but essential travel)

2 Apr 2003: Issued for Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, China.

23 Apr 2003: Issued for Beijing and Shanxi Province, China, and for Toronto, Canada.

30 Apr 2003: Lifted for Toronto.
8 May 2003: Issued for Tianjin and Inner Mongolia, China, and Taipei, Taiwan.
17 May 2003: Issued for Hebei Province, China.
21 May 2003: Issued for all of Taiwan.
23 May 2003: Lifted for Hong Kong and Guangdong Province,
13 Jun 2003: Lifted for HeibeI, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, and Tianjin
provinces, China.
17 Jun 2003: Lifted for Taiwan
24 Jun 2003: Lifted for Beijing - the last area on the list.

Changes in the list of areas with recent local transmission

22 Mar 2003: Initial list includes Toronto, parts of mainland China, Hong
Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, and Viet Nam.
11 Apr 2003: Beijing added.
28 Apr 2003: Viet Nam removed - becomes first country to contain its SARS
outbreak.
1 May 2003: Mongolia added.
7 May 2003: Philippines added.
9 May 2003: Mongolia removed.
14 May 2003: Toronto removed.
20 May 2003: Philippines removed.
26 May 2003: Toronto added for second time.
31 May 2003: Singapore removed.
13 Jun 2003: Guangdong, Hebei, Hubei, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Jiangsu,
Shaanxi, Shanxi, and Tianjin (China) removed.
23 Jun 2003: Hong Kong removed.
24 Jun 2003: Beijing removed.
1 Jul 2003: Only Toronto and Taiwan remain on the list.

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[see also:
SARS - worldwide (159): cases [20030630.1605](#)
SARS - Worldwide (158): cases [20030627.1588](#)
SARS - worldwide (157): cases [20030626.1580](#)
SARS - worldwide (156): cases [20030625.1566](#)
SARS - worldwide (93): etiology [20030505.1122](#)
SARS - worldwide (87): case definition and diagnostics [20030502.1103](#)
Severe acute respiratory syndrome - worldwide (17) [20030322.0713](#)

Severe acute respiratory syndrome - Worldwide: alert (03) [20030316.0660](#)
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome - Worldwide [20030315.0637](#)
Acute respiratory syndrome - Canada (Ontario) [20030314.0631](#)
Acute respiratory syndrome - East Asia [20030314.0630](#)
Acute respiratory syndrome - China (HK), VietNam (03) [20030313.0624](#)
Undiagnosed illness - Vietnam (Hanoi): RFI [20030311.0595](#)
Pneumonia - China (Guangdong) (07) [20030221.0452](#)
Pneumonia - China (Guangdong): RFI [20030210.0357](#)

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