



michigan municipal league

Liability & Property Pool Workers' Compensation Fund

RISK CONTROL SOLUTIONS

A Service of the Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool and
the Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund

SARS BASIC GUIDELINES

Basic Guidelines about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) for Persons in the General Workplace Environment



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating the spread of a respiratory illness called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The outbreak initially affected international

travelers who have recently visited mainland China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Hanoi, Vietnam. Therefore, the CDC issued a travel advisory for people traveling to those areas. Recently, the CDC and the World Health Organization issued an advisory for Toronto after a recent outbreak.

SARS is an infectious illness. It appears to spread primarily by close person-to-person contact. This includes caring for, living with, or having direct contact with respiratory secretions and/or body fluids of a person known to be a SARS case. Transmission of the infection occur through close contact like touching the skin of other persons or objects that become contaminated with infectious droplets and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Workers who have traveled to a known SARS area, or have had close contact with a co-worker or family member with suspected or probable SARS might be at increased risk of developing the infection. They should watch for the development of fever (greater than 100.4° F.) or respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough or difficulty breathing). If these symptoms develop, they should not go to work, school, or other public areas. They should seek evaluation by a health-care provider and practice infection control precautions

recommended for the home or residential setting. They should contact their health-care providers to let them know you may have been exposed to SARS so arrangements can be made, as necessary, to prevent transmission to others.

For more information about the signs and symptoms of SARS, please visit CDC's web-site at: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars. More detailed guidance on management of symptomatic persons who may have been exposed to SARS, such as how long you should avoid public areas, is available at the **exposure management** page on the CDC website.

As with other infectious illnesses, use **universal precautions**. For example, one of the most important and appropriate preventive practices is careful and frequent hand hygiene. Cleaning your hands often using either soap and water or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizers, removes potentially infectious materials from your skin and helps prevent disease transmission. The routine use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as respirators, gloves, or using surgical masks for protection against SARS exposure is currently not recommended.

This material is considered factual at the time of development. If you have questions or desire additional information, please contact your city, county, or state health department, health care provider or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars).