

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION		INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)		SARS Coronavirus
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about SARS in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for SARS in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 547 - 555. • Refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/gcdc/sars/sars.html for the North Carolina SARS Response Plan (01/21/04). • Refer to CDC MMWR: Revised U.S. Surveillance and Case Definition for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Update on SARS Cases – United States and Worldwide, December 2003. December 12, 2003; 52(49); pp 1202-1206. Available from: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5249a2.htm • Print and review reporting forms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: SARS (DHHS/EPI #71)</i> <i>SARS Case Reporting Form (Jan 8, 2004)</i> <i>Appendix B2, Supplement B of Public Health Guidance for Community-Level Preparedness and Response to SARS</i> 	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify CD Branch of the report or suspect case of SARS immediately before beginning to investigate. • Begin separation and masking of patients with respiratory symptoms immediately. • Obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, biopsy report(s), other lab report(s), and discharge summary). • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. • Evaluate the epidemiological evidence for possible exposure. Travel history to an area with a current outbreak or other linkage to active cases is required. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated. 	

APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.
IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES	
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. If source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information.
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the CDC website www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/guidance/index.htm and the North Carolina SARS Response Plan (January 2004) to determine control measures.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the course of the investigation, look for symptoms of the disease in other exposed individuals, refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation and institute appropriate control measures.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to the North Carolina SARS Response Plan (January 2004) for submission of clinical specimens to the SLPH for confirmatory testing.
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (PHPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the local and North Carolina SARS Response Plan (January 2004).
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SARS is extremely infective, implement the local and North Carolina SARS Response Plan (January 2004).
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any case or suspect case of SARS will draw intense media interest. Continual communication between local, state and federal health officials will be necessary. Ensure public information officers are involved and updated. Any case will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts and press releases. NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.