

National ECC Training Advisory



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Subject: SARS Advisory

The recent publicity surrounding the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) has generated questions and concerns about potential exposure during CPR training. After consultation with the CDC, we want to reassure you that our existing recommendations for maintaining a safe training environment (see [Instructor's Manual for Basic Life Support](#)) are adequate for minimizing the risk of transmitting SARS and other known pathogens. If recommended procedures are followed, the overall risk of becoming infected by SARS during CPR training is extremely low.

The risk of transmission of infectious agents during CPR training is minimized by two important practices:

1. Avoid any contact with any saliva or body fluids present on the manikins.
2. Thoroughly clean each manikin with routine decontamination procedures.

For further information about SARS, visit the www.cdc.gov site. The information below was excerpted from that site on April 4, 2003.

Individuals with symptoms and an exposure history that suggest the possibility of SARS should refrain from being in circumstances where they might expose others by direct contact or droplet spread (cough or sneeze). These symptoms and signs include

- a. Fever greater than 100.5°F
- b. Myalgia
- c. Respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath)
- d. **And** a history of travel within 10 days of onset of symptoms to one of these countries:
 - People's Republic of China
 - Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China
 - Vietnam
 - Singapore
- e. **Or** close contact within 10 days of the onset of symptoms with either a person with respiratory symptoms who traveled to a SARS area or is a suspected SARS case